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S. RES. 151

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance presents a unique opportunity to address global discrimination.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2001

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. CORZINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance presents a unique opportunity to address global discrimination.

Whereas racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia persist in various parts of the world despite continuing efforts by the international community to address these problems;

Whereas in recent years the world has witnessed campaigns of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, and indigenous peoples are persistent targets of intolerance and violence;

Whereas millions of human beings continue to encounter discrimination solely due to their race, skin color, or ethnicity;

Whereas early action is required to prevent the growth of ethnic hatred and to diffuse potential violent conflicts;

Whereas the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (in this resolution referred to as “WCAR”), to be held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 7, 2001, aims to create a new world vision for the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance in the twenty-first century, urge participants to adopt anti-discrimination policies and practices, and establish a mechanism for monitoring future progress toward a discrimination-free world;

Whereas the WCAR will review progress made in the fight against racism and consider ways to better ensure the application of existing standards to combat racism;

Whereas participants of the WCAR currently plan to discuss remedies, redress, and other mechanisms to provide recourse at national, regional, and international levels for victims of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination;

Whereas the WCAR is charged with reviewing the political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and other factors leading to racism and racial discrimination and formulating concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional, and international measures to combat racism;

Whereas some preparatory materials for the WCAR take positions on current crises which, if adopted in the final

WCAR Declaration and Program of Action, could exacerbate existing tensions, such as language which takes sides in the current crisis between Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas the attempt by some to use the WCAR as a platform to resuscitate the divisive and discredited notion equating Zionism with racism, a notion that was overwhelmingly rejected in 1991 by a subsequent United Nations Resolution, would undermine the goals and objectives of the WCAR;

Whereas the WCAR is expected to propose concrete recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the resources to actively combat racism and racial discrimination; and

Whereas the United States encourages respect for an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) encourages all participants in the WCAR to
3 seize this singular opportunity to tackle the scourges
4 of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance,
5 slavery, and other forms of discrimination which
6 have divided people and wreaked immeasurable suffering;
7

8 (2) recognizes that, since racism, racial discrimination,
9 xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance exist to some extent in every region and coun-

1 try around the world, efforts to address these preju-
 2 dices should occur within a global framework and
 3 without reference to specific regions, countries, or
 4 present-day conflicts;

5 (3) exhorts the participants to utilize the
 6 WCAR to mitigate, rather than aggravate, racial,
 7 ethnic, and regional tensions;

8 (4) urges the WCAR to focus on concrete steps
 9 that may be taken to address gross human rights
 10 violations that were motivated by racially and eth-
 11 nically based animus and on devising strategies to
 12 help eradicate such intolerance;

13 (5) hopes that objectionable language con-
 14 cerning Israel and Zionism will be removed so that
 15 the United States will be able to send a delegation
 16 and participate fully in the WCAR; and

17 (6) commends the efforts of the Government of
 18 the Republic of South Africa in hosting the WCAR.

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