

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 462

Recognizing the significant achievements of the people and Government of Afghanistan since the Emergency Loya Jirga was held in June 2002 in establishing the foundation and means to hold presidential elections on October 9, 2004.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 10, 2004

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the significant achievements of the people and Government of Afghanistan since the Emergency Loya Jirga was held in June 2002 in establishing the foundation and means to hold presidential elections on October 9, 2004.

Whereas section 101(1) of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7511(1)) declares that the “United States and the international community should support efforts that advance the development of democratic civil authorities and institutions in Afghanistan and the establishment of a new broad-based, multi-ethnic, gender-sensitive, and fully representative government in Afghanistan”;

Whereas on January 4, 2004, the Constitutional Loya Jirga of Afghanistan adopted a constitution that promises free elections with full participation by women and establishes a legislative foundation for democracy in Afghanistan;

Whereas on June 15, 2004, President Bush stated that “Afghanistan’s journey to democracy and peace deserves the support and respect of every nation. . . . The world and the United States stand with [the people of Afghanistan] as partners in their quest for peace and prosperity and stability and democracy.”;

Whereas the independent Joint Electoral Management Body in Afghanistan and thousands of its staff throughout Afghanistan have worked to register voters and organize a fair and transparent election process despite violent and deadly attacks on them and on the purpose of their work;

Whereas more than 10,500,000 Afghans have been reported registered to vote, demonstrating great courage and a deep desire to have a voice in the future of Afghanistan, and more than 40 percent of those reported registered to vote are women;

Whereas the presidential election campaign in Afghanistan officially began on September 7, 2004, and 18 candidates, including one woman, are seeking the presidency;

Whereas on October 9, 2004, the people of Afghanistan will vote in the first direct presidential election, at the national level, in Afghanistan’s history at 5,000 polling centers located throughout Afghanistan, as well as polling centers in Pakistan and Iran;

Whereas the United States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Asian Network for Free Elections will send monitors and

support teams to join the more than 4,000 domestic election observers in Afghanistan for the presidential election;

Whereas the United States and many international partners have provided technical assistance and financial support for elections in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and coalition forces will join the Afghan National Army and police in Afghanistan to help provide security during the presidential election: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the Sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the United States applauds the steadfast
3 commitment of the people of Afghanistan to achieve
4 responsive and responsible government through de-
5 mocracy;

6 (2) the United States strongly supports self-
7 government and the protection of human rights and
8 freedom of conscience for all men and women in Af-
9 ghanistan; and

10 (3) the United States remains committed to a
11 long-term partnership with the people of Afghani-
12 stan and to a peaceful future for Afghanistan.

○