

vaccines, antibiotics, hydration adequate nutrition, and other simple, low-cost interventions.

As a long-time champion of helping the most vulnerable populations both here and abroad, I believe it is important to bring this issue to the attention of the American public. We can and must do more to ensure children around the world receive the interventions necessary for survival.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—CALLING FOR FREE AND FAIR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 226

Whereas the Republic of Azerbaijan is scheduled to hold elections for its parliament, the Milli Majlis, in November 2005;

Whereas Azerbaijan has enjoyed a strong relationship with the United States since its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991;

Whereas international observers monitoring Azerbaijan's October 2003 presidential election found that the pre-election, election day, and post-election environments fell short of international standards;

Whereas the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) in Baku, Azerbaijan, deployed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, found that there were numerous instances of violence by both members of the opposition and government forces;

Whereas the international election observers also found inequality and irregularities in campaign and election conditions, including intimidation against opposition supporters, restrictions on political rallies by opposition candidates, and voting fraud;

Whereas Azerbaijan freely accepted a series of commitments on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law when that country joined the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a participating State in 1992;

Whereas, following the 2003 presidential election, the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 1358 (2004) demanding that the Government of Azerbaijan immediately implement a series of steps that included the release of political prisoners, investigation of election fraud, and the creation of public service television to allow all political parties to better communicate with the people of Azerbaijan;

Whereas, since the 2003 presidential election, the Government of Azerbaijan has taken some positive steps by releasing some political prisoners and working toward the establishment of public service television;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, free from intimidation, undue influence, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not em-

ployed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties; and

Whereas the establishment of a transparent, free and fair election process for the 2005 parliamentary elections is an important step in Azerbaijan's progress toward full integration into the democratic community of nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold orderly, peaceful, and free and fair parliamentary elections in November 2005 in order to ensure the long-term growth and stability of the country;

(2) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee the full participation of opposition parties in the upcoming elections, including members of opposition parties arrested in the months leading up to the November 2005 parliamentary elections;

(3) calls upon the opposition parties to fully and peacefully participate in the November 2005 parliamentary elections, and calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to create the conditions for the participation on equal grounds of all viable candidates;

(4) believes it is critical that the November 2005 parliamentary elections be viewed by the people of Azerbaijan as free and fair, and that all sides refrain from violence during the campaign, on election day, and following the election;

(5) supports recommendations made by the Council of Europe on amendments to the Unified Election Code of Azerbaijan, specifically to ensure equitable representation of opposition and pro-government forces in all election commissions;

(6) urges the international community and domestic nongovernmental organizations to provide a sufficient number of election observers to ensure credible monitoring and reporting of the November 2005 parliamentary elections;

(7) recognizes the need for the establishment of an independent media and assurances by the Government of Azerbaijan that freedom of the press will be guaranteed; and

(8) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

SENATE RESOLUTION 227—PLEDGING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUNGER RELIEF EFFORTS AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE RESOURCES AND DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE TO SECURE FOOD AID FOR COUNTRIES THAT ARE IN NEED OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT ACUTE AND CHRONIC HUNGER

Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 227

Whereas although there is enough food to feed all of the people in the world, as of summer 2005, 852,000,000 people are in need of food aid;

Whereas almost 200,000,000 children under the age of 5 are malnourished and underweight and 1 child dies every 5 seconds from hunger and related ailments;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Programme estimates that more than 5,000,000 metric tons of food is needed to prevent widespread hunger, 80 percent of which will be used for emergency programs to provide aid for people threatened by famine in 2005;

Whereas, as of summer 2005, the United States contributed approximately 1/2 of the total food aid received by the United Nations World Food Programme in 2005;

Whereas, as of summer 2005, 1 person out of every 3 people in Africa is malnourished as a result of drought, conflict, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), locust infestations, and economic dislocation, and countries in Africa will lack at least 1,500,000 metric tons of the food necessary to provide sufficient nutrition to the people in these countries if the level of donations does not increase;

Whereas the World Food Programme, as of summer 2005, had barely 1/2 of the contributions needed to provide food aid to the 26,000,000 victims of food shortage in Africa;

Whereas more than 14,000,000 people in the Horn of Africa are experiencing or are vulnerable to experiencing a severe food shortage;

Whereas approximately 3/4 of the population of Eritrea needs food aid and nearly 1/2 of the women and children in the country are malnourished;

Whereas, as of summer 2005, 8,300,000 people in Ethiopia are in need of food aid and other assistance as a result of poor harvests, degraded land, small land holdings, high population growth, loss of crops, and loss of livestock and other assets;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Programme food aid programs in Ethiopia have received less than 1/2 of the funding necessary to continue these operations;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Programme had received, as of summer 2005, less than 10 percent of the funding necessary to provide aid to the 3,500,000 people in Sudan who will need food in 2005, particularly during the height of the annual hunger season that lasts from August to October, due to political instability and weather conditions that ruined harvests in the country;

Whereas a lack of funds will require the United Nations World Food Programme to reduce the amount of aid given to 2,000,000 people in Burundi, including to 210,000 malnourished children and nursing mothers who face a food shortage as a result of drought and instability;

Whereas a lack of funds is expected to drastically constrain food aid programs worldwide and the critical efforts of private voluntary organizations of the United States that play a central role in implementing such programs;

Whereas a lack of funds forced the United Nations World Food Programme to begin reducing the amount of aid given to an estimated 6,000,000 people in West Africa who are experiencing a famine caused by displacement, drought, and locusts;

Whereas humanitarian agencies report rising rates of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age in Mauritania, Mali, and Niger, which can lead to developmental difficulties and growth stunting;

Whereas nearly 4,000,000 people in Niger, including 800,000 children, will face a food