

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 414

Expressing the Sense of the Senate on the recovery, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of Haiti following the humanitarian crisis caused by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 8), 2010

Mr. KERRY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Foreign Relations

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# RESOLUTION

Expressing the Sense of the Senate on the recovery, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of Haiti following the humanitarian crisis caused by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti.

Whereas on January 12, 2010, Haiti suffered an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, the greatest natural disaster in Haiti's history, which—

- (1) devastated Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas;
- (2) killed more than 100,000 people;
- (3) injured hundreds of thousands more people; and
- (4) left many hundreds of thousands of people homeless;

Whereas Haiti, which is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere—

(1) has an estimated 54 percent of its population living on less than \$1 per day;

(2) has approximately 120,000 people living with HIV;

(3) had 29,333 new cases of Tuberculosis in 2007; and

(4) has nearly 400,000 children living in orphanages;

Whereas despite these challenges, cautious signs of developmental progress and stability were beginning to emerge in Haiti prior to the earthquake;

Whereas although initial recovery efforts must continue to assist the people of Haiti struggling to secure basic necessities, including food, water, health care, shelter, and electricity, Haiti cannot afford to only focus on its immediate needs;

Whereas various United States and international assessments indicate that the next priority for the Government of Haiti should be to repair the country's basic infrastructure, including its schools, roads, hospitals, telecommunications infrastructure, and government buildings;

Whereas Haiti's leaders have advocated that—

(1) reconstruction should not follow the inefficient practices of the past; and

(2) Haitians should be given the opportunity to accelerate and implement long planned reforms and new ways of doing business in every sector;

Whereas Haiti enjoys several advantages that can facilitate its rebuilding, including—

- (1) people committed to education and hard work;
- (2) duty-free, quota-free access to United States markets;
- (3) a large pool of low-cost labor;
- (4) a large, hardworking North American diaspora sending money back to Haiti; and
- (5) regional neighbors who are peaceful, prosperous, and supportive of Haiti's success;

Whereas international experience from rebuilding other countries recovering from natural disaster confirms that—

- (1) stability and security are essential preconditions to longer-term development; and
- (2) economic development and political reform should relieve poverty and foster governance and social justice;

Whereas employment is essential to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, corruption, insecurity, and loss of faith in democracy;

Whereas the Haitian people, like all people, deserve the income and dignity that gainful employment provides;

Whereas, in addition to providing emergency assistance and relief, the Government of Haiti must grapple with the longer-term issue of how to provide permanent, sustainable shelter to an estimated 1,000,000 Haitians displaced by the earthquake;

Whereas, the impact of natural disaster on Haiti is—

- (1) exacerbated by weak building codes and poor infrastructure; and
- (2) more fundamentally the result of an impoverished state unable to provide most of its people with

minimal public services, including security, clean water, shelter, electricity, health care, and education;

Whereas assistance to Haiti should be delivered in a manner that enhances, not diminishes, the ability of the state to provide services to its people;

Whereas the Haitian state should be rebuilt with communities in a central role in the national recovery process led by the Government of Haiti, so that foreign assistance upholds and empowers Haitian mayors, local councils, and municipalities in areas outside of Port-au-Prince; and

Whereas international donors and nongovernmental organizations, which have a responsibility to support the Government of Haiti in its rebuilding efforts, should not supplant the ability of local institutions and the government to manage resources and provide essential services: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) urges the United States Government and  
3       the international community to provide resources,  
4       manpower, and technical assistance to support the  
5       Government of Haiti's leadership of international as-  
6       sistance efforts and to conduct a comprehensive  
7       post-disaster needs assessment that will focus on—

8               (A) social sector services, including access  
9       to, and delivery of, basic services, including—

- 1 (i) health care delivery, including rein-  
2 stating disrupted care and addressing new  
3 needs;
- 4 (ii) all levels of education, including  
5 ensuring access to lessons as quickly as  
6 possible;
- 7 (iii) social support for communities;
- 8 (iv) improving the welfare of children;
- 9 and
- 10 (v) recognition of the importance of  
11 gender equality and the role of women as  
12 economic guardians;
- 13 (B) population resettlement, including  
14 services and sustainable livelihoods to support  
15 new communities and settlements;
- 16 (C) stable and democratic governance, en-  
17 suring that the Government of Haiti will appro-  
18 priately steward state resources through a proc-  
19 ess embracing transparency, civic participation,  
20 political moderation, and institutional account-  
21 ability;
- 22 (D) economic sustainability, emphasizing  
23 employment generation, macroeconomic sta-  
24 bility, and market economy sustainability;

1           (E) security, ensuring legitimate state ef-  
2           forts to prevent and respond to crime, especially  
3           violence, and instilling public order and con-  
4           fidence in Haitian security forces; and

5           (F) rule of law, developing a just legal  
6           framework that—

7                   (i) is accountable;

8                   (ii) provides access to justice; and

9                   (iii) ensures public order;

10           (2) encourages the United States Government  
11           and the international community to support the  
12           leadership of the Government of Haiti and key non-  
13           governmental and private sector Haitian stake-  
14           holders to create a comprehensive national strategy  
15           for recovery and development that will—

16                   (A) be led by the Government of Haiti;

17                   (B) address the findings from the needs  
18           assessment conducted under paragraph (1);

19                   (C) coordinate new resources flowing into  
20           Haiti;

21                   (D) channel such resources in concrete and  
22           specific ways towards key sectoral objectives  
23           identified by the Government of Haiti and its  
24           people;

1 (E) take feasible steps to recognize and  
2 rectify the social injustice of poverty, and de-  
3 crease the vulnerability of the poor, through job  
4 creation, the provision of health care, the provi-  
5 sion of safe shelter and settlements, food secu-  
6 rity, and education;

7 (F) place communities at the center of the  
8 rebuilding process, by employing local labor and  
9 consulting local leaders and communities for  
10 their experience and vision;

11 (G) encourage rebuilding and development  
12 of programs that are environmentally sustain-  
13 able and respectful and restorative of Haiti's  
14 natural resources;

15 (H) work with the Government of Haiti  
16 and the international community to reduce the  
17 risk of future disasters, including floods and  
18 hurricanes, through the relief and recovery ef-  
19 forts focusing on the most vulnerable commu-  
20 nities; and

21 (I) address the difficult issues related to  
22 land use, land tenure, the need for land for re-  
23 construction, and land price escalations;

1           (3) applauds the international community’s re-  
2           sponse to the preliminary appeal for assistance made  
3           at Montreal, Canada, on January 25, 2010;

4           (4) affirms that—

5                   (A) the international donors conference for  
6                   Haiti, which will be held in New York on March  
7                   22–23, 2010, is an opportunity for Haiti to ac-  
8                   celerate and implement long-planned projects  
9                   and priorities in key infrastructural, economic,  
10                  and social sectors outlined in a comprehensive  
11                  national strategy;

12                  (B) large-scale international assistance  
13                  provides significant leverage to promote change  
14                  and reform in Haiti; and

15                  (C) the international community should be  
16                  prepared to fully commit to the outcomes of the  
17                  New York donors conference, including full dis-  
18                  bursement and subsequent implementation;

19           (5) encourages international financial institu-  
20           tions and international organizations, including the  
21           United Nations and the World Bank, to continue  
22           their engagement and leadership in support of crit-  
23           ical economic and security priorities, including—

24                   (A) economic and social assistance pro-  
25                   grams;



1 (B) strengthening Haitian national institu-  
2 tions;

3 (C) security sector reform;

4 (D) ensuring fair and legitimate elections;

5 and

6 (E) supporting political and governance re-  
7 form;

8 (6) encourages the International Monetary  
9 Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American De-  
10 velopment Bank, which hold the majority of Haiti's  
11 existing external debt obligations, to—

12 (A) work together to relieve Haiti of its ex-  
13 ternal debt obligations to the multilateral com-  
14 munity and bilateral lenders; and

15 (B) seek considerable new resources for  
16 Haiti without adding to Haiti's existing debt  
17 obligations, primarily through provision of  
18 grants; and

19 (7) urges the United States Government to en-  
20 sure unity of effort by assigning a single person to—

21 (A) coordinate all aspects of United States  
22 assistance to Haiti; and

23 (B) work with Congress to responsibly en-  
24 sure sufficient appropriations to facilitate the

- 1 long-term and sustainable recovery, rehabilita-
- 2 tion, and development of Haiti.

