

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 12

Recognizing the third anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, honoring those who lost their lives in that earthquake, and expressing continued solidarity with the people of Haiti.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2013

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the third anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, honoring those who lost their lives in that earthquake, and expressing continued solidarity with the people of Haiti.

Whereas, on January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck the country of Haiti, followed by 59 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater;

Whereas more than 220,000 people died as a result of the earthquake, more than 300,000 people were injured, and more than 3,000,000 people were directly affected by the disaster;

Whereas the total cost in terms of human lives, infrastructure damage, and economic losses makes the earthquake one of the worst urban disasters in modern history;

Whereas President Barack Obama vowed the “unwavering support” of the United States Government and pledged a “swift, coordinated, and aggressive effort to save lives and support the recovery in Haiti”;

Whereas the initial emergency response of the men and women of the United States Government, led by the United States Agency for International Development and United States Southern Command, was swift and resolute;

Whereas the Haitian diaspora, other individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations throughout the United States and the international community overwhelmingly responded to the crisis by sending emergency relief supplies and significant financial contributions;

Whereas the Senate passed 3 successive resolutions expressing its profound sympathy and unwavering support for the people of Haiti and urging all nations to assist the people of Haiti with their long-term needs;

Whereas, 3 years later, significant challenges still remain in Haiti as it works to recover and rebuild;

Whereas, according to the International Organization for Migration, approximately 360,000 people remain in spontaneous and organized camps in Haiti and hundreds of thousands of poor people in Haiti continue to live in non-permanent housing, conditions that make them vulnerable to future natural disasters;

Whereas, according to an independent panel investigation by the United Nations, on October 19, 2010, an imported

strain of cholera was detected in the Lower Artibonite region of Haiti;

Whereas, according to the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population, as of December 31, 2012, more than 7,900 people in Haiti have died from cholera and more than 635,000 have been infected with the disease since the earthquake on January 12, 2010;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary-General announced a plan to eliminate cholera from the island of Hispaniola through enhanced treatment and prevention efforts and through the development of clean water and sanitation infrastructure that is accessible to all people in Haiti;

Whereas gender-based violence against women and girls in Haiti continues to be a chronic problem, and judicial barriers that have prevented victims from finding redress remain a significant issue of concern;

Whereas, in 2012 alone, Haiti faced a long drought period and 2 major tropical storms that destroyed 70 percent of agricultural crops in Haiti, impacting the lives of millions of people in Haiti facing food insecurity and further crippling the economy of Haiti;

Whereas the sustained assistance to Haiti from the United States and the international community bolsters the efforts of the Government of Haiti to confront these challenges; and

Whereas, since the earthquake on January 12, 2010, the people of Haiti have demonstrated unwavering resilience, dignity, and courage: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) mourns the loss of lives as a result of the
2 tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010,
3 and the subsequent cholera epidemic;

4 (2) honors the sacrifice made by the men and
5 women of the Government of Haiti, civil society, the
6 United States Government, the United Nations, and
7 the international community in their response to
8 those affected by the calamity;

9 (3) reaffirms its solidarity with the Government
10 and people of Haiti as they work to rebuild their
11 country and livelihoods;

12 (4) supports the long-term reconstruction ef-
13 forts of the United States Government to improve
14 housing, energy, job creation, food security, health
15 care, education, governance, and rule of law in Haiti
16 in full cooperation with the Government of Haiti and
17 civil society, and with the support of the private sec-
18 tor;

19 (5) urges the President and the international
20 community to continue—

21 (A) to focus assistance on increasing the
22 capacity of the public sector of Haiti to
23 sustainably provide services to the people of
24 Haiti;

1 (B) to develop, improve, and increase com-
 2 munication and participation to more substan-
 3 tially involve civil society in Haiti and the Hai-
 4 tian diaspora at all stages of the post-earth-
 5 quake response;

6 (C) to provide programs that protect and
 7 involve vulnerable populations, including inter-
 8 nally displaced persons, children, women and
 9 girls, and persons with disabilities; and

10 (D) to work to enhance the ability of the
 11 Government of Haiti, at all stages of the demo-
 12 cratic process, to improve economic develop-
 13 ment, attract private sector investment, pursue
 14 judicial reform, enhance the rule of law, reduce
 15 incidences of gender-based violence, improve
 16 water and sanitation systems, develop a civil
 17 registry, and reform land tenure policies;

18 (6) welcomes evidence of progress in building a
 19 better future for Haiti, including—

20 (A) significant improvements in agricul-
 21 tural yields via the Feed the Future initiative;

22 (B) the opening of the Caracol Industrial
 23 Park in northern Haiti, which is projected to
 24 create approximately 20,000 jobs by 2016;

1 (C) programs to support economic oppor-
2 tunities for women and survivors of sexual vio-
3 lence through microcredit, short term jobs pro-
4 grams and leadership training, health services,
5 and reintegration and repatriation assistance to
6 Haitian migrants;

7 (D) the reduction of the cholera mortality
8 rate to lower than one percent, and the provi-
9 sion of sophisticated HIV and AIDS prevention
10 and treatment services; and

11 (E) the recruitment, training, and provi-
12 sioning of new officers for the Haitian National
13 Police; and

14 (7) urges the President—

15 (A) to continue reconstruction and develop-
16 ment efforts, closely coordinated with the Gov-
17 ernment of Haiti, the Haitian diaspora, and
18 international actors who share in the goal of a
19 better future for Haiti;

20 (B) to ensure close monitoring of the im-
21 plementation of aid programs funded by the
22 United States Government; and

23 (C) to work with the Government of Haiti
24 and private landowners to prevent the forced
25 eviction of internally displaced people and com-

- 1 communities and to provide sustainable and safe
- 2 housing solutions for the most vulnerable people
- 3 in Haiti.

