

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 397

Designating October 16, 2023, and October 16, 2024, as “World Food Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2023

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOZMAN)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating October 16, 2023, and October 16, 2024, as
“World Food Day”.

Whereas hunger and malnutrition are daily facts of life for
hundreds of millions of people around the world;

Whereas women and children suffer the most serious effects
of hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas millions of children die each year from hunger-re-
lated illness and disease;

Whereas many people suffer permanent physical or mental
impairment because of vitamin or protein deficiencies;

Whereas those in rural areas experience disproportionate lev-
els of hunger;

Whereas the severity and frequency of food insecurity remained unacceptably high in 2022, represented by—

(1) the 2,400,000,000 people, nearly 30 percent of the global population, who experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2022, an increase of 391,000,000 compared to 2019;

(2) the more than 3,100,000,000 people, over 40 percent of the global population, who were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022, an increase of 134,000,000 compared to 2019; and

(3) the approximately 735,000,000 people who faced hunger in 2022, an increase of 122,000,000 compared to 2019;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating humanitarian concern for the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas there is an ever-increasing concern in the United States and in other countries about threats to the future food supply, including—

(1) misuse and overuse of land and water;

(2) loss of biological diversity;

(3) erosion of genetic resources on a global scale;

and

(4) transboundary pests and diseases, such as the desert locust for plants and anthrax for livestock;

Whereas the world community increasingly and consistently calls upon the United States to resolve food problems stemming from natural- and human-made disasters by providing humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States—

(1) plays a major role in the development and implementation of international food and agricultural trade standards and practices; and

(2) recognizes the positive role that the global food trade can play in enhancing human nutrition and alleviating hunger;

Whereas, although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of biological diversity, and strong public and private agricultural research programs are required for the United States to—

(1) remain food secure;

(2) continue to aid the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

(3) assist in building a more resilient global food system; and

(4) preserve and sustain our forests, land, oceans, and waterways;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development of agricultural innovation and technology aimed at enhancing the improved production, safety, and quality of the world food supply, and the United States must continue to maintain that role;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and businesses working with national governments and the international community is essential in the search for ways to increase food production in developing countries and improve food distribution to hungry and malnourished people;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this preamble as the “FAO”) is mandated to lead global efforts to address food and nutrition security issues;

Whereas the member nations of the FAO have unanimously designated October 16 of each year as “World Food Day”;

Whereas the FAO has worked to organize activities and efforts on “World Food Day” in more than 130 countries to promote awareness of and action for people suffering from hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas past observances of “World Food Day” have been supported—

(1) by proclamations of Congress, the President, the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States; and

(2) by programs of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal departments and agencies;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and community leaders are participating in planning “World Food Day” observances in 2023 and 2024, and a growing number of these organizations and leaders are using “World Food Day” as a focal point for year-round programs; and

Whereas the people of the United States can express their concern for the plight of hungry and malnourished people throughout the world by studying, advocating, and taking action: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates October 16, 2023, and October

3 16, 2024, as “World Food Day”; and

- 1 (2) encourages the people of the United States
- 2 to observe the days with appropriate ceremonies and
- 3 activities.

