

Whereas, at the 2005 World Trade Organization Ministerial in Hong Kong, members agreed to establish by April 30, 2006, the formulas or approaches (commonly referred to as “modalities”) for tariff reductions and that time frame has now been extended;

Whereas manufactured goods account for over 70 percent of world merchandise trade and 87 percent of the United States total merchandise exports;

Whereas substantial differences in average bound industrial tariff rates among World Trade Organization members have caused vast inequities in the multilateral trading system, placing American companies and workers at a disadvantage;

Whereas the United States has a simple average bound tariff rate of 3.2 percent for industrial goods with 38.5 percent of industrial tariff lines providing for duty-free treatment;

Whereas foreign tariffs on industrial goods are significantly higher than United States rates, and countries with high industrial tariff rates provide few, if any, duty-free tariff treatment;

Whereas many countries that maintain high industrial tariffs are benefiting under the United States Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a program granting duty-free treatment to specified products that are imported from more than 140 designated countries and territories;

Whereas in 2005, the United States annual deficit for trade in goods reached a new high of \$782,100,000,000;

Whereas the United States share of global industrial goods trade has shrunk over the past decade, and 3,000,000 domestic manufacturing jobs have been lost since June 2000;

Whereas producers of industrial goods, particularly manufacturers, are critical to the health of the United States economy;

Whereas greater access to foreign markets will generate economic growth, raise wages, bolster research and development, and increase standards of living; and

Whereas international trade can be a dynamic engine for economic growth and job creation, provided that America’s entrepreneurs and innovators are afforded non-discriminatory treatment in the global economy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should not be a signatory to any agreement or protocol with respect to the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization negotiations unless—

(1) a NAMA agreement would lead to a significant reduction or elimination of the substantial inequities in the average level of industrial tariff rates of all World Trade Organization members;

(2) substantial increases in market access and United States exports are achieved through reductions in average tariff rates applied to manufactured goods;

(3) sectoral tariff agreements are included that would result in a significant number of countries eliminating tariffs on products and in sectors that would increase United States exports; and

(4) real new market access is achieved through the dismantling of nontariff barriers, and particularly in sectors of primary importance to American manufacturers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 460—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INCREASE ITS SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA IN THEIR EFFORTS TO END DECADES OF VIOLENCE, ESTABLISH LASTING PEACE, FORM A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED AND STABLE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND BECOME AN EFFECTIVE PARTNER IN ERADICATING RADICALISM AND TERRORISM FROM THEIR COUNTRY AND THE REGION

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DAYTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 460

Whereas General Mohamed Siad Barre, who came to power in Somalia through a military coup in 1969, was ousted from power by several armed groups of Somalia in 1991;

Whereas, following the collapse of the central authority in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, rival groups of Somalia devastated the region by—

(1) engaging in an armed struggle for personal political power; and

(2) preventing food and medicine from reaching innocent civilians who were suffering from drought and famine;

Whereas, during the continued internal chaos and destruction in Somalia, hundreds of thousands of people have died from—

- (1) violence;
- (2) starvation; and
- (3) disease;

Whereas the people of Somalia witnessed the country splinter into—

(1) the Republic of Somaliland, which—
(A) is located in the northwest portion of Somalia; and

(B) seeks independence;

(2) Puntland, which is an autonomous region located in the northeast portion of Somalia; and

(3) a myriad of warlord-controlled fiefdoms that are located in the southern portion of Somalia;

Whereas, on November 9, 1992, President George H. W. Bush authorized Operation Restore Hope, and used the Armed Forces to safeguard nongovernmental organizations while the organizations attempted to provide humanitarian assistance to the suffering civilian population of Somalia;

Whereas the United States led the Unified Task Force (referred to in this preamble as the “UNITAF”) in an effort to—

- (1) save lives; and
- (2) help create a relatively peaceful environment for humanitarian activity in Somalia;

Whereas, in May 1993, UNITAF handed its operations to the United Nations for an operation subsequently known as the “United Nations Operation in Somalia”, giving the people of Somalia hope for peace and stability;

Whereas the operation was unfortunately unsuccessful in establishing peace and stability in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia;

Whereas, in March 1994, the Armed Forces withdrew from Somalia after a long and bloody battle in Mogadishu on October 3, 1993;

Whereas, 1 year after the withdrawal of the United States, the United Nations withdrew all remaining peacekeepers because the security conditions in Somalia had further deteriorated;

Whereas the United Nations withdrew United Nations troops from Somalia in 1995;

Whereas 13 conferences dedicated to promoting reconciliation or peace have been called in order to end the fighting in Somalia;

Whereas, in October 2002, 21 warring parties in Somalia took positive action by—

(1) agreeing to a cease fire under the auspices of the East African organization known as the “Intergovernmental Authority on Development”; and

(2) beginning a dialogue that was focused on forming a government;

Whereas, in September 2003, the parties to the Kenyan peace process agreed on the Transitional National Charter for Somalia, and thus paved the way for the creation of a unified national government in Somalia;

Whereas, in August 2004, the 275-member Transitional Federal Assembly of Somalia was assembled in Kenya to reunify and heal Somalia and comprised of 61 delegates from the 4 major clans of Somalia and 31 delegates from an alliance of minority clans located in that country;

Whereas Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, the former leader of Puntland, was elected President of Somalia by the Transitional Federal Government on October 10, 2004;

Whereas Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed appointed Professor Ali Mohamed Gedi as Prime Minister in November 2004;

Whereas a limited number of countries on the continent of Africa have pledged to send peacekeeping troops to Somalia to help protect the Transitional Federal Government as the Government seeks to reestablish peace and order;

Whereas the international community should encourage those individuals and organizations that have shown commitment to the peace process, including—

- (1) the African Union;
- (2) the Intergovernmental Authority on Development;
- (3) the Transitional Federal Government; and

(4) the many clans located in Somalia;

Whereas escalating tensions and violence between certain clans threaten to weaken the ability of the Transitional Federal Government to—

- (1) develop capacity;
- (2) effectively establish stability; and
- (3) enforce the rule of law throughout Somalia;

Whereas the 2004 Country Reports on Terrorism, produced by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f), noted that—

(1) “a small number of al-Qa’ida operatives in East Africa, particularly Somalia, continue to pose the most serious threat to American interests in the region”;

(2) “Somalia’s lack of a functioning central government, protracted state of violent instability, long unguarded coastline, porous borders, and proximity to the Arabian Peninsula make it a potential location for international terrorists seeking a transit or launching point to conduct operations elsewhere”; and

(3) “[t]he U.S. government must identify and prioritize actual or potential terrorist sanctuaries. For each, it should have a realistic strategy to keep possible terrorists insecure and on the run, using all elements of national power”;

Whereas current political tensions may be exacerbated by the ongoing humanitarian crisis that continues to affect hundreds of thousands of individuals in Somalia, thereby making the task of creating a stable, central government increasingly difficult;

Whereas the Transitional Federal Government is incapable of meeting the fundamental needs of all people of Somalia, including—

- (1) education;
- (2) health care; and
- (3) other essential services;

Whereas the 2005 Human Rights Report published by the Department of State cites significant concerns relating to abuses of human rights in Somalia, including—

- (1) female genital mutilation;
- (2) rape; and
- (3) political violence;

Whereas the Federal Government has provided \$476,000,000 for humanitarian assistance activities since 1990, although a majority of those funds were distributed during the early 1990s;

Whereas it is the desire of the United States that the people of Somalia live peaceful, stable, prosperous, and happy lives;

Whereas the United States has historically supported the aspirations of the people of Somalia; and

Whereas the compassion of the citizens of the United States extends across the world to embrace every member of the human family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States is working with the people of Somalia to build a stable and enduring democratic nation in the Horn of Africa that is prosperous and free of civil war;

(2) to achieve long-lasting peace in the region, the nascent leadership and governance structures of Somalia must—

(A) commit themselves to the principles of democracy and the rule of law; and

(B) pledge to hold popular elections as soon as Somalia has stabilized;

(3) the nascent Transitional Federal Government for Somalia should—

(A) organize itself in 1 city as soon as practicable to—

(i) promote national unity; and

(ii) begin the process of reentering the international community; and

(B) delay the consideration of the delicate issue regarding the Republic of Somaliland until an appropriate level of stability has been achieved in Somalia, while understanding the critical importance of that issue for establishing a peaceful Somalia;

(4) the President should—

(A) commend the efforts of those that have worked to restore a functioning and internationally recognized government in Somalia, including—

(i) the people of Somalia and their representatives;

(ii) the African Union;

(iii) the Intergovernmental Authority on Development;

(iv) friendly countries from the continent of Africa; and

(v) nongovernmental organizations;

(B) through the Secretary of State, develop a comprehensive interagency stabilization and reconstruction strategy that—

(i) aligns humanitarian, developmental, economic, political, counterterrorism, and regional strategies;

(ii) achieves the objectives of the United States in Somalia in coordination with the international donor community; and

(iii) orients current and future programs to meet the objectives described in clause (ii);

(C) appoint a special envoy to Somalia to—

(i) help guide and inform United States policy and interests in the region; and

(ii) serve as a liaison between—

(I) the United States;

(II) nascent Somali governance institutions;

(III) the international donor community; and

(IV) the region;

(D) instruct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to request that the Security Council take additional measures to—

(i) evaluate the effectiveness of the existing arms embargo on Somalia; and

(ii) develop an improved plan to monitor and protect the vast land and maritime borders of Somalia from—

(I) smuggling;

(II) dumping; and

(III) piracy; and

(E) through the Secretaries of State and the Treasury, work with international financial institutions to incrementally reduce the crippling international debt of Somalia on the condition that Somalia upholds democratic and free market principles;

(5) the United States Agency for International Development should increase the assistance that the Agency provides to the Transitional Federal Government to rebuild the national infrastructure of Somalia, and place particular emphasis on the promotion of the governmental institutions of Somalia;

(6) the United States should provide training and support to the Transitional National Government of Somalia to—

(A) fight terrorism and extremism; and

(B) strengthen the civil society and grassroots efforts in Somalia that will deny terrorist and extremist groups a fertile ground for recruitment in that country;

(7) the United States, in partnership with the United Nations and the international donor community, must—

(A) heed the calls concerning the significant drought affecting the region that have been placed by—

(i) the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance;

(ii) the international community of nongovernmental organizations; and

(iii) regional governments;

(B) provide sufficient humanitarian assistance to those impacted by the drought; and

(C) realize that a failure to address the humanitarian emergency could have a negative impact on fragile political developments; and

(8) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this resolution, the Secretary of State should present to Congress a status report on items referred to in paragraphs (4) through (8) that includes—

(A) a projection of future challenges regarding Somalia; and

(B) resource requirements that could foreseeably be needed to continue to support the transition of Somalia to a peaceful and democratic country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 461—SUPPORTING AND COMMENDING THE SUPPORTERS OF THE JEFFERSON AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FOR ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES TO EMBARK ON A LIFE OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND RECOGNIZING THOSE CITIZENS WHO HAVE ALREADY PERFORMED EXTRAORDINARY DEEDS FOR THEIR COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 461

Whereas one of the defining traditions of the democracy of the United States is that each person can make a difference;

Whereas the value of public and community service was a founding principle of the Government of the United States;

Whereas, for generation after generation, the citizens of the United States have desired to pass to the youth of the Nation the tradition of neighbors helping neighbors through—

(1) local community service;

(2) volunteerism; and

(3) public service;

Whereas, to build stronger communities, the youth of the United States should be inspired to seek career opportunities in—

(1) the public sector;

(2) the nonprofit sector;

(3) the faith-based community; and

(4) Federal, State, and local governments;

Whereas the Jefferson Awards for Public Service are a prestigious national recognition system that was created on a non-partisan basis in 1972 by—

(1) Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis;

(2) Senator Robert Taft, Jr.; and

(3) Sam Beard;

Whereas the creators of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service sought to create an award similar to the Nobel Prize to encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions in public and community service;

Whereas, for over 30 years, the supporters of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service have pioneered the promotion of civic engagement by using profiles of individual excellence, the media, and modern technology to attract and recruit all citizens of the United States to participate in the democratic processes of the Nation; and

Whereas the Jefferson Awards for Public Service have honored award recipients at—

(1) the national level, by placing the recipients on a "Who's Who" list of outstanding citizens of the United States; and

(2) the local level, by naming the recipients "Unsung Heroes" who accomplish extraordinary deeds for the betterment of the United States while going largely unnoticed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) fully supports the goals and ideals that the creators instilled into the civic engagement initiatives of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service; and

(2) salutes and acknowledges the American Institute for Public Service and the role played by the Jefferson Awards for Public Service in promoting public service in the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 92—ENCOURAGING ALL 50 STATES TO RECOGNIZE AND ACCOMMODATE THE RELEASE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PUPILS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TO ATTEND OFF-CAMPUS RELIGIOUS CLASSES AT THEIR CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, HOUSES OF WORSHIP, AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. DEMINT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 92

Whereas the free exercise of religion is an inherent, fundamental, and inalienable right secured by the 1st amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the free exercise of religion is important to the intellectual, moral, civic, and ethical development of students in the United States;