

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 877

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding many of today's greatest national security challenges and outlining a new framework for foreign policy for the 21st century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 2022

Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding many of today's greatest national security challenges and outlining a new framework for foreign policy for the 21st century.

Whereas the national security challenges facing people in the United States this century include—

- (1) the spread of infectious diseases and global pandemics;
- (2) the climate crisis;

- (3) the proliferation and threat of use of nuclear weapons and materials;
- (4) human rights violations;
- (5) corruption, conflict, and violence;
- (6) authoritarianism and distrust in democratic institutions undermined by disinformation;
- (7) gender, economic, and social inequality; and
- (8) transnational White supremacist violence and racist nationalism;

Whereas such national security challenges are highlighted by the facts that—

- (1) a year and a half after the World Health Organization declared COVID–19 a global pandemic, just 3.07 percent of people in low-income countries had received 1 or more doses of a vaccine while 60.18 percent of people in wealthy countries had;
- (2) in 2020, natural disasters, worsened by climate change, displaced more than 30,700,000 people from their homes;
- (3) the United Nations estimates that about 10 percent of people suffer from hunger worldwide;
- (4) the total amount authorized to be appropriated by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 is \$740,500,000,000;
- (5) 9 countries hold more than 13,000 nuclear warheads and military stockpiles worldwide are on the rise; and
- (6) about 900,000 military personnel, contractors, opposition combatants, humanitarian aid workers, journalists, national and military police, and other civilians have been killed in United States wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, and other major war zones since 2001;

Whereas these challenges cannot be primarily solved through the use of military force or Department of Defense budget increases; and

Whereas refocusing United States national security strategy on these issues requires robust new investments in non-military tools of statecraft, as well as domestic and international institutions that rely on dialogue, inclusivity, accountability, conflict resolution, and global cooperation over competition: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it should be the policy of the United
3 States—

4 (A) to prioritize mitigating and, where possible,
5 resolving the harms created by the security
6 challenges outlined in the preamble to this
7 resolution by—

8 (i) supporting robust investments in
9 diplomacy, development, justice, human
10 rights, and conflict prevention;

11 (ii) putting local leadership and part-
12 nership at the center of policy design, de-
13 velopment, and implementation; and

14 (iii) using both bilateral and multilat-
15 eral relationships and United States influ-
16 ence to uphold human rights and human
17 dignity;

1 (B) to acknowledge that United States na-
2 tional interests are aligned with the well-being
3 and rights of people around the world by plac-
4 ing human dignity, social justice, and coopera-
5 tion at the center of United States foreign pol-
6 icy;

7 (C) to implement effective, bold, and im-
8 mediate domestic and multilateral responses to
9 climate change in order to adapt, mitigate, pre-
10 vent, and, where possible, reverse the worst ef-
11 fects of this urgent, existential crisis this dec-
12 ade and to provide refuge to those impacted;

13 (D) to focus domestic and international in-
14 vestments on equitable and inclusive, people-
15 centered solutions that empower individuals,
16 workers, and communities, and safeguard uni-
17 versal human rights to equality, migration, and
18 human security; and

19 (E) to support the United Nations, includ-
20 ing funding its programs and specialized agen-
21 cies, participating in its committees, and sup-
22 porting reforms to make international institu-
23 tions more responsive to the most pressing
24 needs of the global community, including the

1 global migration crisis, the climate crisis, and
2 global health crises; and

3 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
4 tives that to address the national security priorities
5 outlined in the preamble and achieve the policy de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1), United States foreign pol-
7 icy must be reformed by—

8 (A) making the United States national se-
9 curity workforce more diverse, equitable, and
10 inclusive, both in terms of representation of his-
11 torically marginalized groups as well as under-
12 represented prodiplomacy and anti-interven-
13 tionist perspectives;

14 (B) creating formal and informal processes
15 to ensure United States foreign policy is regu-
16 larly informed by, and responsive to, the exper-
17 tise, experiences, and needs of communities
18 most directly impacted by United States foreign
19 policy, especially marginalized groups such as
20 poor people, racial, religious and ethnic minori-
21 ties, indigenous people, women, people with dis-
22 abilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and youth;

23 (C) democratizing issues of war and peace
24 in the United States by reasserting article I of
25 the Constitution, which puts the decision to go

1 to war solely in the hands of the legislative
2 branch, the branch of government most ac-
3 countable to people in the United States;

4 (D) substantially reducing and bringing ac-
5 countability to wasteful Department of Defense
6 spending, outdated weapons systems, security
7 assistance, and overt and covert regime change
8 policies that fuel conflict;

9 (E) engaging in diplomacy, peacebuilding,
10 and conflict prevention to address violent
11 groups that perpetrate terrorism rather than
12 the existing framework predicated on high-value
13 assassinations, containment, coercion, torture,
14 and abuse;

15 (F) ending the use of broad-based, sectoral
16 sanctions as a punitive tool short of war, which
17 too often feeds authoritarianism and corruption
18 while disproportionately harming the most vul-
19 nerable;

20 (G) holding the United States Government
21 and its partners accountable to international
22 law, including the law of armed conflict and
23 international arms treaties, and supporting
24 international criminal justice, conducting inde-
25 pendent investigations of suspected violations,

1 and providing reparations, including ex gratia
2 payments, to survivors when it or a partner
3 fails to do so;

4 (H) limiting United States military assist-
5 ance, arms sales, and security sector coopera-
6 tion for governments that commit grand corrup-
7 tion, gross violations of human rights, crimes
8 against humanity, or genocide, regardless of
9 their political relationship to the United States
10 Government;

11 (I) acceding to and supporting universal
12 implementation of international conventions and
13 treaties that uphold the rule of law, promote
14 universal human rights and human dignity, pro-
15 tect the most vulnerable, and democratize inter-
16 national governance;

17 (J) recommitting United States resources
18 and capacity-building to international and bilat-
19 eral nonproliferation, arms control, and disar-
20 mament treaties to work toward a world with-
21 out planet-destroying nuclear weapons;

22 (K) devoting adequate resources toward,
23 and aligning United States policy with, the pur-
24 suit of equitable, sustainable global develop-
25 ment, including but not limited to the achieve-

1 ment of the United Nations Sustainable Devel-
2 opment Goals;

3 (L) ensuring that the rules of international
4 trade and investment, in the form of multilat-
5 eral and bilateral trade agreements and inter-
6 national bodies governing trade, enshrine the
7 right to collectively organize, protect labor
8 rights and the environment, promote gender
9 equality, public health, and anticorruption con-
10 trols over corporate profits;

11 (M) building a more just and equitable
12 global economy by combating illicit financial
13 flows, strengthening measures for global cor-
14 porate accountability, and reforming multilat-
15 eral economic development and lending institu-
16 tions so that the interests of workers, women
17 and children, as well as their reproductive free-
18 dom, the environment, and poor people are
19 prioritized over private and corporate interests
20 and profits;

21 (N) adopting an aggressive plan to trans-
22 form the United States and global economy
23 away from dependency on militarism and fossil
24 fuels and to create the solutions needed to com-
25 bat the climate crisis while centering workers

1 displaced from those industries in a just transi-
2 tion into jobs in the climate resilience work-
3 force; and

4 (O) advancing global reproductive and gen-
5 der justice by ensuring United States foreign
6 policy and foreign assistance programs uphold
7 all people’s reproductive rights and access to
8 comprehensive reproductive health care, and by
9 prioritizing women’s meaningful participation in
10 United States foreign policy, through securing
11 their positions within United States-influenced
12 peace processes, devoting increased resources to
13 grassroots women-led groups advancing social
14 justice, and supporting women human rights
15 defenders.

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