

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 311

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and related matters.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2002

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and related matters.

Whereas the Senate recalls the Stockholm Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment of 1972, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992, and Agenda 21—which provided the framework for action for achieving sustainable development;

Whereas the pillars of sustainable development—economic development, social development and environmental protection—are interdependent and mutually reinforcing com-

ponents, and many countries continue to face overwhelming social, environmental and economic challenges;

Whereas global environmental degradation is both affected by and a significant cause of, social and economic problems such as pervasive poverty, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, poor ecosystem management and land use, and the burden of debt;

Whereas, despite the many successful and continuing efforts of the international community, the environment and the natural resource base that supports life on Earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the importance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a review of progress achieved in implementing the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and as an opportunity for the international community to strengthen international cooperation and implement its commitments to achieve sustainable development;

Whereas the Senate recognizes further that the World Summit on Sustainable Development is intended to be a summit of heads of state;

Whereas the United States delegation was represented by the President at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992; and

Whereas the Senate recognizes further the importance of the United States of America as a world leader in effectively addressing issues related to the 3 pillars of sustainable development: Now, therefore, be it

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

1 (1) having the President lead the United States
2 delegation would send a strong signal of United
3 States support for the goals of sustainable develop-
4 ment;

5 (2) the United States should at the World Sum-
6 mit on Sustainable Development—

7 (A) reaffirm its support for the implemen-
8 tation of commitments entered into by the
9 United States and the international community
10 at the United Nations Conference on Environ-
11 ment and Development;

12 (B) support increased international co-
13 operation to implement the provisions of Agen-
14 da 21 and to address the challenges of sustain-
15 able development in the twenty-first century, in-
16 cluding new specific targets and commitments,
17 in particular with respect to the protection of
18 the oceans and freshwater, combating deforest-
19 ation, implementation of the United Nations
20 Convention to Combat Desertification, protec-
21 tion of the atmosphere including global climate
22 change, preservation of biological diversity, and
23 reducing the use of persistent bioaccumulative
24 toxic pollutants;

1 (C) reaffirm the importance of integrating
2 environmental and social considerations into
3 economic decision making, including trade and
4 investment agreements;

5 (D) support measures to improve compli-
6 ance with and enforcement of international en-
7 vironmental commitments;

8 (E) support measures to improve the eco-
9 nomic, social, and environmental well-being of
10 developing countries, including the mobilization
11 of domestic and international resources and de-
12 velopment assistance beyond current levels;

13 (F) support the Global Environment Facil-
14 ity, which provides critical financial assistance
15 for environmental improvements in the devel-
16 oping world, at a level which will allow it to
17 adequately fund ongoing and important new
18 priorities;

19 (G) support good governance within each
20 country and at the international level as essen-
21 tial for sustainable development, including
22 sound environmental, social and economic poli-
23 cies, democratic and transparent institutions re-
24 sponsive to the needs of the people, public ac-
25 cess to information, the rule of law, anti-corrup-

1 tion measures, gender equality and an enabling
2 environment for investment;

3 (H) support efforts to meaningfully im-
4 prove the institutional structure for imple-
5 menting the framework created by Agenda 21
6 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and
7 Development, as well as a more coherent and
8 coordinated approach among international envi-
9 ronmental instruments;

10 (I) remain firmly opposed to commercial
11 whaling and to all efforts to reopen inter-
12 national trade in whale meat or to downlist any
13 whale population in the Convention on Inter-
14 national Trade in Endangered Species; and

15 (J) support measures to increase the use
16 of renewable sources of energy throughout the
17 world—for example, encourage export credit
18 agencies to foster more projects to develop re-
19 newable energy resources;

20 (3) both at the World Summit on Sustainable
21 Development and in other appropriate fora, the
22 United States should re-engage in, provide leader-
23 ship to, and urgently pursue the negotiation of bind-
24 ing international agreements to address global cli-
25 mate change consistent with—

1 (A) United States commitments under Ar-
2 ticle 2 of the United Nations Framework Con-
3 vention on Climate Change to “achieve . . . sta-
4 bilization of greenhouse gas concentrations at a
5 level that avoids dangerous anthropogenic inter-
6 ference with the climate system . . . within a
7 timeframe sufficient to allow ecosystems to
8 adapt naturally to climate change . . .”;

9 (B) the findings of the Third Assessment
10 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Cli-
11 mate Change, which the Administration should
12 support in its international negotiations; and

13 (C) the Sense of Congress on Climate
14 Change approved by the Senate as part of the
15 National Energy Policy Act of 2002;

16 (4) both at the World Summit on Sustainable
17 Development and in other appropriate fora, the
18 United States should support, provide leadership
19 and urgently pursue the negotiation of binding inter-
20 national agreements for the protection of the marine
21 environment, aimed at—

22 (A) reducing over-capacity of the global
23 fishing fleet to environmentally and economi-
24 cally sustainable levels;

1 (B) reducing bycatch, and protecting en-
2 dangered migratory species, such as sea turtles,
3 marine mammals and sea birds;

4 (C) addressing the international aspects of
5 marine debris;

6 (D) combating the degradation and de-
7 struction of coral reefs; and

8 (E) reducing land-based pollution such as
9 sewage and other nutrients; and

10 (5) the President should identify priority inter-
11 national environmental agreements that the United
12 States has signed during and following the United
13 Nations Conference on Environment and Develop-
14 ment that the Administration will present to the
15 Senate for ratification.

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