

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 152

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should develop a strategy to bring the United States back into active and full membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 1995

Mr. TORRES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should develop a strategy to bring the United States back into active and full membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was created in 1946 as an integral part of the United Nations system, designed to promote international cooperation and exchanges in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication with the larger purpose of constructing “the defenses of peace” against intolerance and incitements to war;

Whereas in 1984 the United States withdrew from the organization over questions of internal management and political polarization;

Whereas in 1993 the General Accounting Office, after conducting an extensive review of the organization's activities, reported to the Congress that UNESCO has implemented changes to remedy the problems cited by the United States as reasons for its withdrawal in 1984;

Whereas the interagency review undertaken with all relevant Federal departments and agencies in 1993 concluded unanimously in a report to the President that, in the President's words, "UNESCO's current programs provide valuable services in a range of fields that reinforce our Nation's foreign policy agenda";

Whereas the organization's current and projected plans offer means for advancing the foreign policy interests of the United States in promoting democracy, sustainable development, and tolerance in order to prevent ethnic, national, and religious conflicts;

Whereas the four interrelated areas of expertise of the organization, which are education, science, culture, and communication, represent important areas of American competitive advantage, and participation in global programs and policymaking in these fields advances the interests of the United States;

Whereas UNESCO-related United States policy interests include reducing illiteracy and improving education, including education for immigrant populations coming from other nations and cultures, increasing tolerance among ethnic and racial minority groups, protecting cultural freedom and the free flow of information, widening access

to communications technology markets in developing countries by American businesses, providing broader channels for international collaboration on scientific research, and understanding environmental change and preservation;

Whereas multilateral initiatives in such politically sensitive activities offer advantages and prospects for success in many countries that cannot be easily realized by bilateral initiatives;

Whereas the United States is unable to participate fully in the important policy-setting work of most UNESCO bodies notwithstanding that it remains engaged in some UNESCO programs, such as the International Oceanographic Commission and the Man and the Biosphere;

Whereas it ill serves the United States to pursue an isolationist course in education, science, culture, and communication; and

Whereas the President has declared that the sole impediment to full reengagement by the United States as a member state of UNESCO is budgetary: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) the United Nations Educational, Scientific,  
4       and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has satisfac-  
5       torily overcome the problems cited by the United  
6       States as the reasons for its withdrawal from the or-  
7       ganization in 1984;

8               (2) UNESCO's mission in promoting inter-  
9       national cooperation in the intellectual sectors is in-

1 trinsically important to promoting the “defenses of  
2 peace”; and

3 (3) the President should—

4 (A) develop a strategy to reengage the  
5 United States in UNESCO’s work, with an eye  
6 towards resumption of full membership in the  
7 organization when funding is made available;

8 (B) direct the Secretary of State—

9 (i) to consult with government agen-  
10 cies, nongovernmental organizations, and  
11 other interested parties that had substan-  
12 tial involvement with the work of the orga-  
13 nization before the withdrawal of the  
14 United States in order to formulate goals  
15 the United States should seek at the orga-  
16 nization as part of the strategy;

17 (ii) to reexamine the frameworks es-  
18 tablished in law for the participation of the  
19 American nongovernmental sector in  
20 UNESCO policy and activities; and

21 (iii) to reconstitute the United States  
22 National Commission for UNESCO;

23 (C) consult with other governments on  
24 prospects for further reform of the organiza-  
25 tion’s policy bodies and governance, particularly

1 with an eye to strengthening in all member  
2 states the role of independent, nongovern-  
3 mental, intellectual sectors in agency programs  
4 and governance; and

5 (D) report to the Congress before Septem-  
6 ber 30, 1995, on the nature and extent of the  
7 consultations and the progress being made on  
8 the strategy.

