

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 793

To support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 2013

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and
Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and re-
ferred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To support revitalization and reform of the Organization
of American States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Organization of Amer-
5 ican States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Charter of the Organization of Amer-
9 ican States recognizes that—

1 (A) representative democracy is indispen-
2 sable for the stability, peace, and development
3 of the Western Hemisphere; and

4 (B) a purpose of the Organization of
5 American States is to promote and consolidate
6 representative democracy, with due respect for
7 the principle of nonintervention.

8 (2) The United States supports the purposes
9 and principles enshrined in—

10 (A) the Charter of the Organization of
11 American States;

12 (B) the Inter-American Democratic Char-
13 ter; and

14 (C) the American Declaration on the
15 Rights and Duties of Man.

16 (3) The United States supports the Organiza-
17 tion of American States in its efforts with all mem-
18 ber states to meet our commitments under the in-
19 struments set forth in paragraph (2).

20 (4) Congress supports the Organization of
21 American States as it operates in a manner con-
22 sistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

23 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

24 It is the policy of the United States—

1 (1) to promote democracy and the rule of law
2 throughout the Western Hemisphere;

3 (2) to promote and protect human rights and
4 fundamental freedoms in the Western Hemisphere;
5 and

6 (3) to support the practices, purposes, and prin-
7 ciples expressed in the Charter of the Organization
8 of American States, the American Declaration on
9 the Rights and Duties of Man, the Inter-American
10 Democratic Charter, and other fundamental instru-
11 ments of democracy.

12 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the Organization of American States (OAS)
15 should be the primary multi-lateral diplomatic entity
16 for regional dispute resolution and promotion of
17 democratic governance and institutions;

18 (2) the OAS is a valuable platform from which
19 to launch initiatives aimed to benefit the countries
20 of the Western Hemisphere;

21 (3) the Summit of the Americas institution and
22 process embodies a valuable complement to regional
23 dialogue and cooperation;

24 (4) the Summit of the Americas process should
25 be formally and more effectively integrated into the

1 work of the OAS, the Inter-American Development
2 Bank, and other Members of the Joint Summit
3 Working Group, and the OAS should play a central
4 role in overseeing and managing the Summit pro-
5 cess;

6 (5) the OAS General Assembly and the Summit
7 of the Americas events should be combined geo-
8 graphically and chronologically in the years in which
9 they coincide;

10 (6) to ensure an appropriate balance of prior-
11 ities, the OAS should review its core functions no
12 less than annually and seek opportunities to reduce
13 the number of mandates not directly related to its
14 core functions;

15 (7) key OAS strengths lie in strengthening
16 peace and security, promoting and consolidating rep-
17 resentative democracy, regional dispute resolution,
18 election assistance and monitoring, fostering eco-
19 nomic growth and development cooperation, facili-
20 tating trade, addressing migration, combating illicit
21 drug trafficking and transnational crime, and sup-
22 port for the Inter-American Human Rights System;

23 (8) the core competencies referred to in para-
24 graph (7) should remain central to the strategic

1 planning process of the OAS and the consideration
2 of future mandates;

3 (9) any changes to OAS mandates should be ac-
4 cepted by the member states only after an analysis
5 is conducted and formally presented consisting of a
6 calculation of the financial costs associated with the
7 mandate, an assessment of the comparative advan-
8 tage of the OAS in the implementation of the man-
9 date, and a description of the ways in which the
10 mandate advances the organization's core mission;

11 (10) any new mandates should include, in addi-
12 tion to the analysis described in paragraph (9), an
13 identification of the source of funding to be used to
14 implement the mandate;

15 (11) the OAS would benefit from enhanced co-
16 ordination between the OAS and the Inter-American
17 Development Bank on issues that relate to economic
18 development;

19 (12) the OAS would benefit from standard re-
20 porting requirements for each project and grant
21 agreement; and

22 (13) the OAS would benefit from effective im-
23 plementation of—

24 (A) transparent and merit-based human
25 resource standards and processes; and

1 (B) transparent hiring, firing, and pro-
2 motion standards and processes, including with
3 respect to factors such as gender and national
4 origin.

5 **SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES REVITALIZA-**
6 **TION AND REFORM STRATEGY.**

7 (a) STRATEGY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of State shall submit to the Committee on
11 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee
12 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
13 a multiyear strategy that—

14 (A) identifies a path toward the adoption
15 of necessary reforms that prioritize and rein-
16 force the OAS’s core competencies described in
17 section 4(7);

18 (B) outlines an approach to secure from
19 the OAS effective adoption of—

20 (i) a results-based budgeting process
21 in order to strategically prioritize, and
22 where appropriate, reduce current and fu-
23 ture mandates; and

24 (ii) transparent hiring, firing, and
25 promotion practices; and

1 (C) reflects the inputs and coordination
2 from other Executive Branch agencies, as ap-
3 propriate.

4 (2) POLICY PRIORITIES AND COORDINATION.—
5 The Secretary of State shall—

6 (A) carry out diplomatic engagement to
7 build support for reforms and budgetary burden
8 sharing among OAS member states and observ-
9 ers;

10 (B) promote donor coordination among
11 OAS member states; and

12 (C) help set priorities for the OAS.

13 (b) BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary of State shall offer
14 to the committees referred to in subsection (a)(1) a quar-
15 terly briefing that—

16 (1) reviews assessed and voluntary contribu-
17 tions;

18 (2) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to
19 adopt and effectively implement a results-based
20 budgeting process in order to strategically prioritize,
21 and where appropriate, reduce current and future
22 mandates;

23 (3) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to
24 adopt and effectively implement transparent and
25 merit-based human resource standards and practices

1 and transparent hiring, firing, and promotion stand-
2 ards and processes, including with respect to factors
3 such as gender and national origin;

4 (4) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to
5 adopt and effectively implement a practice of solie-
6 iting member quotas to be paid on a schedule that
7 will improve the consistency of its operating budget;
8 and

9 (5) analyzes the progress made by the OAS to
10 review, streamline, and prioritize mandates to focus
11 on core missions and make efficient and effective use
12 of available funding.

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