

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 83

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2004

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas a survey conducted by Freedom House in 2003, entitled “Freedom in the World”, found that of the 192 governments of nations of the world, 121 (or 63 percent) of such governments have an electoral democracy form of government;

Whereas the Community of Democracies, an association of democratic nations committed to promoting democratic principles and practices, held its First Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, Poland, in June 2000;

Whereas in a speech at that Conference, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated that “when the United Nations can truly call itself a community of democracies, the [United Nations] Charter’s noble ideals of protecting human rights and promoting ‘social progress in larger freedoms’ will have been brought much closer”, that “democratically governed states rarely if ever make war on one another”, and that “in this era of intra-state wars, is the fact that democratic governance—

by protecting minorities, encouraging pluralism, and upholding the rule of law—can channel internal dissent peacefully, and thus help avert civil wars”;

Whereas a report by an Independent Task Force cosponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations and Freedom House in 2002, entitled “Enhancing U.S. Leadership at the United Nations”, concluded that “the United States is frequently outmaneuvered and outmatched at the [United Nations]” because the 115 members of the nonaligned movement “cooperate on substantive and procedural votes, binding the organization’s many democratic nations to the objectives and blocking tactics of its remaining tyrannies”;

Whereas at the First Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, the representatives of the participating governments agreed to “collaborate on democracy-related issues in existing international and regional institutions, forming coalitions and caucuses to support resolutions and other international activities aimed at the promotion of democratic governance”; and

Whereas that agreement was reaffirmed at the Second Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Seoul, Korea, in November 2002: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. PROMOTION OF A DEMOCRACY CAUCUS WITH-**  
4 **IN THE UNITED NATIONS.**

5        Congress urges the President to instruct any rep-  
6 resentative of the United States to a body of the United  
7 Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States

1 to seek to establish a democracy caucus within the United  
2 Nations as described in this Resolution.

3 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE OF THE DEMOCRACY CAUCUS.**

4 The purpose of the democracy caucus referred to in  
5 section 1 should be to advance the interests of the United  
6 States and other nations that are committed to promoting  
7 democratic norms and practices by—

8 (1) supporting common objectives, including  
9 bolstering democracy and democratic principles, ad-  
10 vancing human rights, and fighting terrorism in ac-  
11 cordance with the rule of law;

12 (2) forging common positions on matters of  
13 concern that are brought before the United Nations  
14 or any of the bodies of the United Nations;

15 (3) working within and across regional lines to  
16 promote the positions of the democracy caucus;

17 (4) encouraging democratic states to assume  
18 leadership positions in the bodies of the United Na-  
19 tions; and

20 (5) advocating that states that permit gross vio-  
21 lations of human rights, sponsor terrorist activities,  
22 or that are the subject of sanctions imposed by the  
23 United Nations Security Council are not elected—

24 (A) to leadership positions in the United  
25 Nations General Assembly; or

1 (B) to membership or leadership positions  
2 in the Commission on Human Rights, the Secu-  
3 rity Council, or any other body of the United  
4 Nations.

5 **SEC. 3. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRACY**  
6 **CAUCUS.**

7 Participation in the democracy caucus referred to in  
8 section 1 should be limited to countries that—

9 (1) are qualified to participate in the Commu-  
10 nity of Democracies, an association of democratic  
11 nations committed to promoting democratic prin-  
12 ciples and practices; and

13 (2) have demonstrated a commitment—

14 (A) to the core democratic principles and  
15 practices set out in the Final Warsaw Declara-  
16 tion of the Community of Democracies, adopted  
17 at Warsaw June 27, 2000; and

18 (B) to the democratic principles set forth  
19 in—

20 (i) the United Nations Charter;

21 (ii) the Universal Declaration of  
22 Human Rights; and

23 (iii) the International Covenant on  
24 Civil and Political Rights.

1 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL MEETING.**

2       The members of the democracy caucus referred to in  
3 section 1 should hold a ministerial-level meeting at least  
4 once each year to coordinate policies and positions of the  
5 caucus.

Passed the Senate June 24, 2004.

Attest:                   EMILY J. REYNOLDS,  
*Secretary.*