

gentle lady from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON). Her commitment to assistant people in the U.S. and the rest of the world feed themselves through the Farmer-to-Farmer program and other technical education programs will truly be missed in this Body during the next Congress.

Mr. Speaker a very special note of appreciation is extended to Dr. Fred Starr of the School for Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University for the concepts that undergird this legislation and for his generous amount of time and advice to this member and my staff Alicia O'Donnell, as we drafted this legislation. The distinguished Dr. Starr first explained his views and proposal at an Aspen institute breakfast sponsored by the distinguished former senator from Iowa, Rich Clark.

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One important incentive which the U.S. can extend is assistance to address one of its most immediate needs, the need to rebuild Afghanistan's capability to feed itself.

Indeed, nearly all of the indigenous tools for food production and rural development in the Afghanistan area have been destroyed. The people of Afghanistan, necessarily, have eaten their seed stocks and most have slaughtered all of their breeding livestock to meet their immediate food requirements. Additionally, over 20 years of civil war and political unrest in Afghanistan have resulted in the destruction of the country's limited basic irrigation systems.

Unfortunately, the food production capabilities in the mountainous regions of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan have reached abject levels, too, thus results in a regional crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the Afghanistan and Central Asia Republics Sustainable Food Production Trust Fund Act that I have introduced directs the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into negotiations for the creation of a multilateral global trust fund to address the food production crisis in Afghanistan and the surrounding Central Asian Republics. Through the trust fund, non-governmental organizations, working in conjunction with local and regional entities, would receive grants to conduct food production in rural development projects, including microenterprise loan programs, in Afghanistan and in the impoverished mountainous regions of the countries I previously mentioned.

Upon the creation of the trust fund, the NGOs would be immediately eligible to receive grants to execute projects in the countries of the Central Asian Republics. This is a model laid out for us by Dr. Fred Starr, a very distinguished member of SAIS at Johns Hopkins University, in a breakfast for the Aspen Institute held in this Capitol building several months ago.

In order to provide the important incentive during critical stages of state-

building, Afghanistan would not be eligible for programming until the Secretary of State certifies that the people of Afghanistan have made substantial progress towards creating a national government which meets four criteria: one, has diverse ethnic and religious representation; two, does not sponsor terrorism or harbor terrorists; three, demonstrates a strong commitment to eliminating poppy production use for opium production; and, four, meets internationally recognized human rights standards.

Mr. Speaker, helping the people in the region feed themselves is not only benefits which we are creating for them, it is important to us and to other countries. It would provide an opportunity to build good will in a region which has been neglected by U.S. policymakers and U.S. assistance programs. We cannot leave a vacuum there like the one that was left behind after the Soviets were expelled from Afghanistan.

U.S. leadership, in creating a long-term trust fund, can be a critical step towards rebuilding confidence in the USA. When funds from public and private sources are gathered and distributed through a multilateral mechanism, it becomes much more difficult for governments in the region to dismiss the projects as ephemeral U.S. foreign policy initiatives. Additionally, providing programming funds for the Central Asian Republics and not solely to Afghanistan, which will certainly become the recipient of massive bilateral and multilateral human assistance programs, will further demonstrate the U.S. commitment to the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will look at this legislation. I think it begins the process of seeking a long-term solution to the region's dire food production challenges; and, furthermore, it is a real incentive for them to move the kind of government which will bring peace and stability to the region.

Mr. Speaker, this Member would note that the Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics Sustainable Food Production Trust Fund is not intended to replace similar bilateral projects which USAID has begun to conduct in the region. Furthermore, the trust fund is not intended to supplant the very necessary emergency food assistance programs in Afghanistan and the surrounding Central Asian Republics.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the U.S. and the rest of the global community begin to seek long-term solutions to the region's dire food production challenges. Through the creation of the Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics Sustainable Food Production Trust Fund, the U.S. can take an important step toward that end.

INDIAN TRUST MANAGEMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government has repeatedly committed to a trustee relationship with the American Indian nations. Defined by treaties, statutes, and interpreted by the courts, the trust relationship requires the Federal Government to exercise the highest degree of care with tribal and Indian lands and resources.

At first, the Federal trust responsibility served to protect tribal lands and tribal communities from intrusion. However, in a push to acquire tribal lands and turn Indians into farmers, the Federal Government imposed reservation allotment programs pursuant to the General Allotment Act of 1887. Under these policies, the selling and leasing of allotted lands and inherited interests became primary functions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribes lost 90 million acres and much of the remaining 54 million acres was opened to non-Indian use by lease. In sum, the Federal Government took the trust responsibility for Indian land upon itself in order to gain the benefit of vast tribal lands and resources that were guaranteed by treaty, executive order, and agreements for exclusive use by the tribes.

It is widely known, Mr. Speaker, that the BIA grossly mismanaged and squandered billions of dollars worth of resources that should have gone to the benefit of often impoverished American Indians. Today, the Secretary of the Interior is faced by a mandate from Congress to clean up the accounting and management of the Indian trust funds, and by a lawsuit alleging a great failure by the Secretary's trust responsibility for Indian lands. In response, the Secretary has proposed a plan to create a new Bureau of Indian Trust Asset Management and remove the trust functions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, this proposal will profoundly affect the BIA's management of 54 million acres of Indian lands, the administration of trust funds derived from those lands, and nearly every aspect of economic development, agriculture, and land management within Indian country.

I am greatly concerned that this plan is repeating the failure of the many trust reform efforts of the past. Recently, 193 Indian tribes unanimously adopted a resolution opposing this reorganization and transfer of the responsibilities of the BIA. I strongly believe that this reorganization effort cannot go forward until the Department consults with Indian tribes in the development of a business processes plan for trust reform, a clear plan for performing the basic trust functions of accounting, collections, recordkeeping inspections enforcement and resource management. The plan must include policies, procedures and controls.

The fundamental and consistent criticism of the Department's trust reform efforts over the last decade has been the failure to develop a plan for these

business operations of trust management. Instead, the DOI has a well-documented record of making short-term cosmetic changes in response to court-imposed deadlines or congressional inquiries.

Mr. Speaker, it is notable that this criticism, a lack of structural foundation, is exactly the same as has been leveled against the Department's development of the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System. All tribal leaders strongly support trust reform and want to work constructively with the Department and with Congress to ensure sound management of tribal assets. In fact, it is the tribes that have the greatest interest in ensuring that tribal assets and resources are properly managed.

In this spirit, I will submit for the RECORD the following principles of the National Congress of American Indians, which should guide the Department of the Interior in its trust reform efforts. Secretary Norton clearly needs help in attending to the concerns of Native Americans, and I would hope these principles would be taken into consideration by her.

I. Put first things first. Creating a new agency does not create trust reform, and we unequivocally oppose this proposal as currently framed. Tribal leadership urges the Secretary to stop the BITAM reorganization effort until there has been an opportunity to actively engage and consult with tribes in developing an alternative plan for the business processes of trust management in an open and consensus-based process. Once the Department, working with tribes, has a clear definition of the tasks that must be accomplished, then any staff reorganization should be based on this business processes plan.

II. Tribes can help solve this problem, but the Secretary must consult and collaborate with the tribal leadership on a government-to-government, sovereign-to-sovereign basis. Announce and defend is not consultation. The Secretary and the tribes should agree that the upcoming regional meetings should be to consult on the scope of the issues to be addressed. The scoping meetings planned at present are too fast and too few, and should be extended to cover all regions, with an extended timeline. A Tribal Leaders Task Force on Trust Reform should be created and funded, and consultation should include the IIM account holders. Consultation must continue throughout the trust reform effort, and the discussions must be marked by some fundamental ground rules. The tribes insist that the Department agree to deal in good faith, avoid self-dealing, and commit to full disclosure of relevant and material information (including that relating to known failures and losses).

III. In the past twelve years, Interior has paid more than a billion dollars in judgments and settlements for its failures to protect the trust assets. The costs of continued failure will far out-

strip the costs of doing it right. Congress must fund trust reform, and the IIM beneficiaries and tribes should not bear the burden of paying to fix the trust system. We therefore oppose the Department's proposed reprogramming of \$300 million within the Fiscal 2002 budget from the BIA budget to fund the proposed BITAM, and any other proposal to remove funds from the BIA for this purpose.

IV. The Secretary of Interior should come forward in an honest and forthright way to discuss ways of settling on historic account balances. If she cannot do this, then Congress must address this issue substantively.

V. Do no harm. Many tribes and BIA field offices have been successful in establishing sound trust management for their lands pursuant to the tribal self-determination policy. These successful systems should not be harmed or modified by the trust reform efforts without tribal consent.

VI. Successful development and resource management in Indian Country are linked to Indian control. The future of trust management includes increased protection and tribal control over lands and resources, and a federal system that provides technical assistance and trust oversight on resource management in a flexible arrangement that is driven by self determination through the special circumstances, legal and treaty rights of each tribe and reservation. Different regions in Indian Country and their specialization in grazing, timber, oil & gas, commercial real estate, agriculture, fisheries, water, etc., will all require different systems that must reflect the unique needs of each.

VII. The survival of tribal cultures and traditions is dependent upon the continuance of tribal lands and resources as durable means to live and be Indian. One role of the trustee is to protect the long-term viability of tribal lands and resources and ensure that the actions of the trustee are consistent with tribal control of the use and development of Indian lands.

ANNIVERSARY OF CEDAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday, December 18, marked the 22nd anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, otherwise known as CEDAW. Adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1979, CEDAW established a universal definition of discrimination against women and provides international standards to discourage sex-based discrimination. These standards encourage equality in education, health care, employment, and all other areas of public life.

This comprehensive United Nations treaty serves as a powerful tool for all

women as they fight against discrimination, and this treaty has led to substantial improvements for women's lives in countries including Japan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, and Zambia. In fact, when Brazil redrafted its constitution, they used CEDAW as a framework for their human rights for women. The Brazilian constitution now contains provisions on gender equality, gender-based violence, equality of rights within marriage, family planning, and employment, paralleling those contained in CEDAW.

To date, 168 countries have ratified CEDAW. However, the United States is not one of those countries. In fact, the United States is the only industrialized nation that has not ratified CEDAW, a distinction that places us in the company of North Korea, Iran, and Afghanistan. The decision to abandon this embarrassing distinction is long overdue.

The last 3 months have focused on recovering from the tragic events of September 11 and fighting against terrorism. And as a part of our response to the terrorist attacks, the U.S. has overthrown the Taliban, a government that stripped Afghan women of all freedoms, dignity, and respect. Now the United States will play an important role in rebuilding the Afghan Government. Critical to building this new democracy will be the inclusion and acceptance of Afghan women.

But in our quest to help Afghanistan rebuild, we are presented with a shameful irony. While we are trying to teach the Afghani people that women must be an equal part of a post-Taliban democracy, we contradict ourselves by refusing to ratify the one international treaty that ensures the rights of all women. If we truly want to be regarded as a world leader and champion of human rights, our country must ratify this treaty. Women around the world are depending on the United States to show support for CEDAW, because United States' support will strengthen CEDAW's purpose and enhance its credibility.

During my 9 years in Congress, the ratification of this treaty has been a top priority of mine. Although it is the purview of the other body to ratify a U.N. treaty, 90 bipartisan Members of the House of Representatives have signed a House Resolution asking the Senate to take up this issue and ratify CEDAW. Please join this effort to convince the administration and the other body that the time has come for the United States to join 168 other nations who have committed themselves to safeguarding basic human rights and ending gender discrimination and ratifying CEDAW.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)