

Treaty Organization (referred to in this resolution as “NATO”), and partners in Afghanistan;

(3) remembers the 63 years NATO has served to ensure peace, security, and stability in Europe and throughout the world;

(4) reaffirms that NATO, through the new Strategic Concept, is oriented for the changing international security environment and the challenges of the future;

(5) urges all NATO members to take concrete steps to implement the Strategic Concept and to utilize the NATO summit in Chicago, Illinois, to address current NATO operations, future capabilities and burden-sharing issues, and the relationship between NATO and partners around the world;

(6) conveys appreciation for the steadfast partnership between NATO and the United States; and

(7) expresses support for the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago.

PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SUDAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 350, S. Res. 397.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 397) promoting peace and stability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

[Strike all after the enacting clause and the preamble (the part in boldface brackets) and insert the part printed in italic.]

S. RES. 397

[Whereas conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been ongoing since June 2011 in Sudan's border state of South Kordofan and since September 2011 in the border state of Blue Nile, resulting in a humanitarian crisis;

[Whereas the Government of Sudan has refused repeated requests by the United States Government, the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, nongovernmental organizations, and others to allow humanitarian access to the conflict areas;

[Whereas the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012, agreeing to respect each other's sovereignty and refrain from launching any attack against the other, including bombardment;

[Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 130,000 refugees have fled South Kordofan and Blue Nile for South Sudan, Ethiopia, and elsewhere since June 2011, and hundreds of thousands more have been internally displaced or severely affected by conflict;

[Whereas the Government of Sudan bombed the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan on November 10, 2011;

[Whereas both the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North have reportedly prevented civilians from leaving Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan;

[Whereas the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development, estimated in March 2012 that conflict-affected areas of South Kordofan would deteriorate further in coming weeks to Phase 4 emergency levels of food insecurity (one step before being classified as a famine), due mainly to conflict and government policies that have limited cultivation, displaced the population, restricted trade, and refused access for international humanitarian assistance;

[Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a statement on February 14, 2012, expressing deep and growing alarm with the rising levels of malnutrition and food insecurity in some areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, calling on the Government of Sudan to allow immediate access to United Nations personnel, and urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and return to talks to address the issues that have fueled the current conflict;

[Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appealed urgently to donors in February 2012 for \$145,000,000 to assist refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile;

[Whereas President Barack Obama released a statement in June 2011 calling on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree immediately to a ceasefire, end restrictions on humanitarian access and United Nations movements, and agree on security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States through direct, high-level negotiations as opposed to the use of force;

[Whereas President Obama released a statement on February 2, 2012, strongly condemning the bombing by the Armed Forces of Sudan of civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan, which stated that aerial attacks on civilian targets are unjustified, unacceptable, and a violation of international law and compound the ongoing crisis in these areas;

[Whereas neither South Kordofan nor Blue Nile were able to complete the popular consultation process with the Government of Sudan as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) before violence broke out;

[Whereas, despite the independence of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, many key issues between Sudan and South Sudan remain unresolved, including transit fees for oil pipeline use, citizenship, the status of Abyei, and border demarcation;

[Whereas the goal of democratic governance reform in Sudan as envisioned in the CPA has not been met;

[Whereas, in addition to the growing conflict-induced humanitarian and human rights crisis in Sudan's southern border states, the humanitarian crisis and ongoing insecurity in Darfur continues; and

[Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that more than 4,000,000 people in Sudan remain internally displaced, and in 2011, though for the first time since the Darfur conflict began, more Darfuris voluntarily returned to their homes (87,000) than were newly displaced (70,000), and additional tens of thousands are being displaced in southern Sudan:] Now, therefore, be it

Whereas conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been ongoing since June 2011 in Sudan's border state of Southern Kordofan and since September 2011 in the border state of Blue Nile, resulting in a humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the Government of Sudan has refused repeated requests by the United States Government, the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, nongovernmental organizations, and others to allow humanitarian access to the conflict areas;

Whereas the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012, agreeing to respect each other's sovereignty and refrain from launching any attack against the other, including bombardment;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 130,000 refugees have fled Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile for South Sudan, Ethiopia, and elsewhere since June 2011, and hundreds of thousands more have been internally displaced or severely affected by conflict;

Whereas the Government of Sudan bombed the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan on November 10, 2011;

Whereas both the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North have reportedly prevented civilians from leaving Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan;

Whereas the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development, estimated in March 2012 that conflict-affected areas of Southern Kordofan would deteriorate further in coming weeks to Phase 4 emergency levels of food insecurity (one step before being classified as a famine), due mainly to conflict and government policies that have limited cultivation, displaced the population, restricted trade, and refused access for international humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a statement on February 14, 2012, expressing deep and growing alarm with the rising levels of malnutrition and food insecurity in some areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, calling on the Government of Sudan to allow immediate access to United Nations personnel, and urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and return to talks to address the issues that have fueled the current conflict;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appealed urgently to donors in February 2012 for \$145,000,000 to assist refugees from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile;

Whereas President Barack Obama released a statement in June 2011 calling on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree immediately to a ceasefire, end restrictions on humanitarian access and United Nations movements, and agree on security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States through direct, high-level negotiations as opposed to the use of force;

Whereas President Obama released a statement on February 2, 2012, strongly condemning the bombing by the Armed Forces of Sudan of civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan, which stated that aerial attacks on civilian targets are unjustified, unacceptable, and a violation of international law and compound the ongoing crisis in these areas;

Whereas neither Southern Kordofan nor Blue Nile were able to complete the popular consultation process with the Government of Sudan as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) before violence broke out;

Whereas, despite the independence of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, many key issues between Sudan and South Sudan remain unresolved, including transit fees for oil pipeline use, citizenship, the status of Abyei, and border demarcation;

Whereas the goal of democratic governance reform in Sudan as envisioned in the CPA has not been met;

Whereas, in addition to the growing conflict-induced humanitarian and human rights crisis in Sudan's southern border states, the humanitarian crisis and ongoing insecurity in Darfur continues; and

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that, although for the first time since the Darfur conflict began, more Darfuris (87,000) voluntarily returned to their homes than were newly displaced (70,000), tens of thousands of additional people are still being displaced in southern Sudan and more than 4,000,000 people in Sudan remain internally displaced in total: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

[(1) welcomes the memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation signed between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012;

[(2) calls on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to reach a mutually beneficial political agreement;

[(3) urges the Government of Sudan to allow immediate and unrestricted humanitarian access to South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and all other conflict-affected areas of Sudan;

[(4) encourages the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to declare a cessation of hostilities to allow food and essential supplies to reach affected civilians;

[(5) implores the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to refrain from any support of proxy forces;

[(6) urges the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to allow civilians to leave the two states voluntarily and seek refuge in more secure areas; and

[(7) supports the current efforts of the Obama Administration, working with partners in the international community, to facilitate humanitarian access to affected areas, to encourage all relevant parties to return to the negotiation table to reach agreements associated with the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to mitigate violence in the interim, and to allow full humanitarian access.]]

That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation signed between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012;

(2) calls on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to reach a mutually beneficial political agreement;

(3) urges the Government of Sudan to allow immediate and unrestricted humanitarian access to Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and all other conflict-affected areas of Sudan;

(4) encourages the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to declare a cessation of hostilities to allow food and essential supplies to reach affected civilians;

(5) implores the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to refrain from any support of proxy forces;

(6) urges the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to allow civilians to leave Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile voluntarily and seek refuge in more secure areas; and

(7) supports the current efforts of the Obama Administration, working with partners in the international community, to facilitate humanitarian access to affected areas, to encourage all relevant parties to return to the negotiation table to reach agreements associated with the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to mitigate violence in the interim, and to allow full humanitarian access.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I ask the Senate now vote on adoption of the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (No. 397), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 397

Whereas conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been ongoing since June 2011 in Sudan's border state of Southern Kordofan and since September 2011 in the border state of Blue Nile, resulting in a humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the Government of Sudan has refused repeated requests by the United States Government, the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, nongovernmental organizations, and others to allow humanitarian access to the conflict areas;

Whereas the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012, agreeing to respect each other's sovereignty and refrain from launching any attack against the other, including bombardment;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 130,000 refugees have fled Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile for South Sudan, Ethiopia, and elsewhere since June 2011, and hundreds of thousands more have been internally displaced or severely affected by conflict;

Whereas the Government of Sudan bombed the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan on November 10, 2011;

Whereas both the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North have reportedly prevented civilians from leaving Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan;

Whereas the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development, estimated in March 2012 that conflict-affected areas of Southern Kordofan would deteriorate further in coming weeks to Phase 4 emergency levels of food insecurity (one step before being classified as a famine), due mainly to conflict and government policies that have limited cultivation, displaced the population, restricted trade, and refused access for international humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a statement on February 14, 2012, expressing deep and growing alarm with the rising levels of malnutrition and food insecurity in some areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, calling on the Government of Sudan to allow immediate access to United Nations personnel, and urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and return to talks to address the issues that have fueled the current conflict;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appealed urgently to donors in February 2012 for \$145,000,000 to assist refugees from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile;

Whereas President Barack Obama released a statement in June 2011 calling on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree immediately to a ceasefire, end restrictions on humanitarian access and United Nations movements, and agree on security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States through direct, high-level negotiations as opposed to the use of force;

Whereas President Obama released a statement on February 2, 2012, strongly condemning the bombing by the Armed Forces of Sudan of civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan, which stated that aerial attacks on civilian targets are unjustified, unacceptable, and a violation of international law and compound the ongoing crisis in these areas;

Whereas neither Southern Kordofan nor Blue Nile were able to complete the popular consultation process with the Government of Sudan as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) before violence broke out;

Whereas, despite the independence of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, many key issues between Sudan and South Sudan remain unresolved, including transit fees for oil pipeline use, citizenship, the status of Abyei, and border demarcation;

Whereas the goal of democratic governance reform in Sudan as envisioned in the CPA has not been met;

Whereas in addition to the growing conflict-induced humanitarian and human rights crisis in Sudan's southern border states, the humanitarian crisis and ongoing insecurity in Darfur continues; and

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that, although for the first time since the Darfur conflict began, more Darfuris (87,000) voluntarily returned to their homes than were newly displaced (70,000), tens of thousands of additional people are still being displaced in southern Sudan and more than 4,000,000 people in Sudan remain internally displaced in total: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation signed between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012;

(2) calls on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to reach a mutually beneficial political agreement;

(3) urges the Government of Sudan to allow immediate and unrestricted humanitarian access to Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and all other conflict-affected areas of Sudan;

(4) encourages the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to declare a cessation of hostilities to allow food and essential supplies to reach affected civilians;

(5) implores the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to refrain from any support of proxy forces;

(6) urges the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to allow civilians to leave Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile voluntarily and seek refuge in more secure areas; and

(7) supports the current efforts of the Obama Administration, working with partners in the international community, to facilitate humanitarian access to affected areas, to encourage all relevant parties to return to the negotiation table to reach agreements associated with the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to mitigate violence in the interim, and to allow full humanitarian access.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 414, S. Res. 415, and S. Res. 416.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the three resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate on any of those three measures, and any statements related to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 414

Commemorating the 125th anniversary of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Whereas the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (referred to in this preamble as "the University") was founded on March 7, 1887, in Robeson County, North Carolina by an act of the General Assembly of North Carolina;

Whereas the University, originally named the Croatan Normal School, was created in response to a petition from the Indian people of Robeson County;

Whereas the University was founded for the purpose of training American Indian school teachers;

Whereas the University opened in the fall of 1887 with 15 students and 1 teacher;

Whereas the University moved to its present location in Pembroke, North Carolina in 1909;

Whereas a 2-year program beyond high school was added to the University in 1926;

Whereas the length of the program of college studies at the University was extended to 4 years in 1939;

Whereas, in 1941, the General Assembly of North Carolina changed the name of the University to Pembroke State College for Indians;

Whereas, until 1953, the University was the only State-supported 4-year college for Indians in the United States;

Whereas, in 1969, the General Assembly of North Carolina changed the name of the University to Pembroke State University and made the University a regional State university that provided instruction at both the undergraduate level and the graduate level;

Whereas, in 1972, the General Assembly of North Carolina established the 17-campus University of North Carolina system and made Pembroke State University 1 of the constituent institutions of the system;

Whereas, on July 1, 1996, Pembroke State University became the University of North Carolina at Pembroke;

Whereas, today, approximately 6,000 students from diverse backgrounds are enrolled in 41 undergraduate programs and 17 graduate programs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke; and

Whereas March 7, 2012, marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 125th anniversary of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

S. RES. 415

Designating April 4, 2012, as "National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day"

Whereas the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries and the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries provide valuable service and leadership opportunities for women who wish to take an active role in their communities;

Whereas the mission of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries is to encourage member chapters to render charitable services that—

(1) are beneficial to the general public; and
(2) place a particular emphasis on providing for the needs of children; and

Whereas since the founding of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 1941, the organization has provided strength and inspiration to women who want to effect positive change in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 4, 2012, as "National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day";

(2) recognizes the great contributions made by members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to their communities and to the people of the United States; and

(3) especially commends the work of the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to better the lives of children in the United States.

S. RES. 416

Supporting the designation of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month

Whereas Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's disease;

Whereas there is inadequate comprehensive data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, as of 2011, it is estimated that the disease affects from 500,000 to 1,500,000 people in the United States;

Whereas although research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown;

Whereas there is no objective test for Parkinson's disease, and the rate of misdiagnosis can be high;

Whereas symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include tremors, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, speaking, rigidity, cognitive problems, dementia, mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, constipation, skin problems, and sleep disruptions;

Whereas medications mask some symptoms of Parkinson's disease for a limited amount of time each day, often with dose-limiting side effects;

Whereas ultimately the medications and treatments lose their effectiveness, gen-

erally after 4 to 8 years, leaving the person unable to move, speak, or swallow;

Whereas there is no cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease; and

Whereas increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments with fewer side effects and, ultimately, an effective treatment or cure for Parkinson's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, and eventually, a cure for Parkinson's disease;

(4) recognizes the people living with Parkinson's who participate in vital clinical trials to advance knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of local and regional organizations, volunteers, and millions of Americans across the country working to improve the quality of life of persons living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 5

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

Mr. REID. I now ask for a second reading, but I object to my own request. The reason I am doing this is to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, March 29, through Monday, April 16, the majority leader, Senator WEBB, and Senator ROCKEFELLER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.