

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko unnecessarily detracts from Ukraine's otherwise strong relationship with Europe, the United States, and the community of democracies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 166—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) AND COMMENDING ITS SUCCESSOR, THE AFRICAN UNION

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 166

Whereas, on May 25, 1963, 32 newly independent African countries signed the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to promote unity, solidarity, and political and economic cooperation among themselves, and to defend member states' sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence;

Whereas upon its inception, the OAU embraced the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including freedom of association, free expression, and political participation;

Whereas such efforts to encourage African unity, advance human rights, and promote economic development on the continent were undermined by regional conflicts, military coups, and civil wars, as well as large foreign debts, increasing trade imbalances, food insecurity, and weak institutions;

Whereas a decision declaring the establishment of the African Union (AU) as a successor organization to the OAU to promote democratic principles and institutions, encourage economic growth, and develop new tools for the collective promotion of regional stability was adopted in Sirte, Libya, on March 1, 2001, and March 2, 2001;

Whereas the vision of the African Union is that of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena";

Whereas the African Union expresses commitment to the essential values of transparency and accountability and promotes democratic processes across the continent of Africa;

Whereas the African Union departed from the OAU's abiding doctrine of nonintervention in the internal affairs of member states in favor of a new policy establishing the right of the AU to intervene in a member state under grave circumstances, including with respect to war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity;

Whereas the African Union continues to build more robust African regional institutions in order to address the myriad challenges facing the continent, and has established an African peace and security architecture, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, a strategic framework for regional socioeconomic development, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, and the African Peer Review Mechanism, which seeks to help advance good governance, among other institutions;

Whereas the African Union has contributed to regional peace and security by mobilizing peacekeeping or intervention forces to protect civilians or support political mediation missions and peace-building processes in Burundi, Comoros, Sudan, Somalia, and Mali;

Whereas efforts to end conflicts on the continent of Africa, which continue to destabilize states, undermine democracy, stifle

economic growth and investment, and rob young Africans of the opportunity for an education and a better life, are a key United States objective;

Whereas it is critical to the interests of the United States that the African Union be capable of effectively addressing current conflicts and preventing future ones, advancing economic growth and broad-based and sustainable economic development, and consolidating democracy and good governance;

Whereas the United States Government demonstrated its strong commitment to working closely with the AU by establishing a Mission to the African Union in 2006;

Whereas, on August 3, 2010, the United States and the African Union signed a \$5,800,000 multi-year assistance agreement to achieve common policy objectives;

Whereas, on June 14, 2012, President Barack Obama announced a United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa, which calls on the United States to deepen its partnership with African countries and regional organizations by supporting efforts to advance accountable, democratic governance and adherence to human rights norms and the rule of law, particularly by supporting the African Union African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance and other multilateral standards;

Whereas key goals also supported by the African Union include fostering peace and security, spurring economic growth, trade, and investment, and promoting opportunity and development;

Whereas, on February 1, 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the United States and the African Union to cement cooperation on peace and security, democracy and governance, economic growth, trade, and investment, and promotion of opportunity and development;

Whereas the African Union serves as a pre-eminent dialogue and policy-making forum for leaders in Africa seeking to advance a wide range of regional political, security, social, and economic objectives, including sub-regional integration, and is a key interlocutor for and representative of the people of Africa in international political and policy forums, including the United Nations; and

Whereas close relations between the United States and the African Union mutually benefit the people of the United States and Africa and the political, security, economic, and cultural relations that link them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends warm congratulations to the former member states of the Organization of African Unity on the 50th year anniversary of its founding, in particular its original 32 member states;

(2) commends member states of the African Union for their strong and determined joint efforts to promote democratic societies, sustainable development, and sound economic practices, and peace, security, and stability on the continent;

(3) urges the President to continue to strongly support efforts to advance and strengthen United States-African Union cooperation, including through United States programs to help build the capacities of the African Union;

(4) encourages the President to expedite and expand United States efforts to achieve the goals and objectives of his United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa; and

(5) emphasizes the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights, open markets, and broad-based and sustainable economic growth and development as key pillars for long-term stability and security in Africa and United States engagement with the continent.

SENATE RESOLUTION 167—REAFFIRMING THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL, SOVEREIGNTY, AND JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC MARITIME DOMAINS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 167

Whereas the maritime domain of the Asia-Pacific region includes critical sea lines of communication and commerce between the Pacific and Indian oceans;

Whereas the United States has a national interest in freedom of navigation and overflight in the Asia-Pacific maritime domains, as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law;

Whereas the United States has a national interest in the maintenance of peace and stability, open access by all to maritime domains, respect for universally recognized principles of international law, prosperity and economic growth, and unimpeded lawful commerce;

Whereas the United States has a clear interest in encouraging and supporting the nations of the region to work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation, without threats, and without the use of force;

Whereas the South China Sea contains great natural resources, and their stewardship and responsible use offers immense potential benefit for generations to come;

Whereas, in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in this region, including Chinese vessels cutting the seismic survey cables of a Vietnamese oil exploration ship in May 2011; Chinese vessels barricading the entrance to the Scarborough Reef lagoon in April 2012; China issuing an official map that newly defines the contested "nine-dash line" as China's national border; and, since May 8, 2013, Chinese naval and marine surveillance ships maintaining a regular presence in waters around the Second Thomas Shoal, located approximately 105 nautical miles northwest of the Philippine island of Palawan;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law" and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas Japan and Taiwan reached an agreement on April 10, 2013, to jointly share and administer the fishing resources in their overlapping claimed exclusive economic zones in the East China Sea, an important breakthrough after 17 years of negotiations and a model for other such agreements;

Whereas other incidences of the joint administrations of resources in disputed waters in the South China Sea have de-escalated tensions and promoted economic development, such as Malaysia and Brunei's 2009 agreement to partner on exploring offshore Brunei waters, with drilling in offshore oil and gas fields off Brunei beginning in 2011;

and Thailand and Vietnam's agreement to jointly develop areas of the Gulf of Thailand for gas exports, despite ongoing territorial disputes;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of the Philippines states that it "has exhausted almost all political and diplomatic avenues for a peaceful negotiated settlement of its maritime dispute with China" and in his statement of January 23, 2013, Republic of Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Del Rosario stated that therefore "the Philippines has taken the step of bringing China before the Arbitral Tribunal under Article 287 and Annex VII of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute";

Whereas, in January 2013, a Chinese naval ship allegedly fixed its weapons-targeting radar on Japanese vessels in the vicinity of the Senkaku Islands, and, on April 23, 2013, eight Chinese marine surveillance ships entered the 12-nautical-mile territorial zone off the Senkaku Islands, further escalating regional tensions;

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, the Chinese Communist Party's main newspaper, *The People's Daily*, published an article by several Chinese scholars questioning Japan's sovereignty over Okinawa, where key United States military installations are located which contribute to preserving security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has recently taken other unilateral steps, including declaring the Senkaku Islands a "core interest", "improperly drawing" baselines around the Senkaku Islands in September 2012, which the 2013 Annual Report to Congress on Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China found to be "inconsistent with international law", and maintaining a continuous military and paramilitary presence around the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas, although the United States does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration, affirms that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States' acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands, remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, and has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means;

Whereas, on August 3, 2012, a Department of State spokesperson expressed concern over "China's upgrading of the administrative level of Sansha City and the establishment of a new military garrison there," encouraged ASEAN and China "to make meaningful progress toward finalizing a comprehensive Code of Conduct," and called upon claimants to "explore every diplomatic or other peaceful avenue for resolution, including the use of arbitration or other international legal mechanisms as needed";

Whereas the United States recognizes the importance of strong, cohesive, and integrated regional institutions, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, as foundation for effective regional frameworks to promote peace and security and economic growth, including in the maritime domain, and to ensure that the Asia-Pacific community develops rules-based regional norms which discourage coercion and the use of force;

Whereas the United States welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China, the government of which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules; enhances security and peace; and seeks to advance a "new model" of relations between the United States and China; and

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and into the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of coercion, threats, or force by naval, maritime security, or fishing vessels and military or civilian aircraft in the South China Sea and the East China Sea to assert disputed maritime or territorial claims or alter the status quo;

(2) strongly urges that all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the region exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or complicate or escalate disputes, including refraining from inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features and handle their differences in a constructive manner;

(3) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the member states of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China as they seek to develop a code of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, and urges all countries to substantively support ASEAN in its efforts in this regard;

(4) supports collaborative diplomatic processes by all claimants in the South China Sea for resolving outstanding maritime or territorial disputes, in a manner that maintains peace and security, adheres to international law, and protects unimpeded lawful commerce as well as freedom of navigation and overflight, and including through international arbitration, allowing parties to peacefully settle claims and disputes using universally recognized principles of international law;

(5) encourages the deepening of efforts by the United States Government to develop partnerships with other countries in the region for maritime domain awareness and capacity building; and

(6) supports the continuation of operations by the United States Armed Forces in the Western Pacific, including in partnership with the armed forces of other countries in the region, in support of freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, and respect for universally recognized principles of international law, including the peaceful resolution of issues of sovereignty and unimpeded lawful commerce.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has been postponed. This hearing was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony on the November 6, 2012, referendum on the political status of Puerto Rico and the administration's response.

For further information, please contact Allen Stayman at (202) 224-7865 or Danielle Deraney at (202) 224-1219.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Davita Vance-Cooks, of Virginia, to be the Public Printer.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee, (202) 224-6352.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will meet on June 13, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room 428A, Russell Senate Office Building to hold a markup of pending legislation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 10, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in room S-216.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Emily Sharp, Michael Branson, Mike Oleyar, Teresa Bloom, fellows from the Senate Budget Committee, be granted floor privileges during consideration of S. 744.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that fellows in Senator BLUMENTHAL's office, Afton Cissell and Sean Arenson, be granted floor privileges for the duration of debate on S. 744.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair grant privileges of the floor to Joseph McCormack of the Budget Committee for the remainder of the first session of the 113th Congress.

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

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that tributes to Frank Lautenberg, the late Senator from New Jersey, be printed as a Senate document and that Members have until 12 noon on Thursday, June 20, to submit said tributes.