

and regularly rehearsed with local emergency personnel;

(7) privacy of health information and proper referral for medical, psychosocial, and nutritional counseling;

(8) participate in a culture that finds “playing through pain” unacceptable unless there has been a medical assessment;

(9) immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions made by qualified sports medicine professionals; and

(10) along with their parents, the latest information about the benefits and potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries to youth athletes; and

Whereas the Secondary School Student Athletes’ Bill of Rights, which sets forth goals and ideals to improve the health, well-being, and athletic experience of secondary school students, can serve as a valuable resource to reduce injury, promote athlete safety, and encourage well-being: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the principles and values set forth in the Secondary School Student Athletes’ Bill of Rights;

(2) recognizes the importance of proper safety measures, timely medical assessments, and appropriate environmental conditions in ensuring the health and well-being of secondary school student athletes;

(3) recognizes the role that teachers, parents, coaches, and athletic health care team members play in ensuring the safety and well-being of secondary school student athletes;

(4) expresses support for secondary schools that have successfully implemented programs, policies, and practices to emphasize and encourage student athlete safety and well-being; and

(5) encourages secondary schools to continue to take all available and reasonable efforts to ensure student athlete safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 373—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOSECURITY AND AGRO-DEFENSE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mrs. McCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 373

Whereas following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the United States increased its efforts to combat the threat of global terrorism;

Whereas the September 11th attacks illustrated the vulnerability of the food supply and agriculture economy of the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security to improve the Government’s ability to respond to threats facing the United States;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, was quick to recognize the threat posed by agroterrorism;

Whereas on January 30, 2004, President George W. Bush issued a Homeland Security Presidential Directive entitled “Defense of United States Agriculture and Food”;

Whereas the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism stated in a 2008 report that bioterrorism was a more likely threat to the United States than nuclear terrorism, and higher priority should therefore be given to efforts to combat bioterrorism;

Whereas the threat of a terrorist attack on the United States persists, and continued vigilance is necessary; and

Whereas construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility began on May 28, 2013: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) as the United States combats terrorism in all forms and around the world, the safety, security, and health of our livestock and agriculture commodities must not be forgotten;

(2) research and investment in biosecurity and agro-defense should be supported by Congress;

(3) providing the resources, both intellectually and materially, for the advancement of vaccines and cures for deadly pathogens and emerging zoonotic diseases is an integral part of homeland defense;

(4) without the tools necessary to protect the people, agriculture economy, and food supply of the United States, this Nation remains vulnerable to attack;

(5) the world depends on the agriculture of the United States;

(6) the world depends on the leadership of the United States in science and technology;

(7) the United States must remain a leader in the fight against bioterrorism; and

(8) biosecurity and a strong agro-defense system are achievable goals for the United States in the global war on terrorism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 374—DESIGNATING MARCH 3, 2014, AS “WORLD WILDLIFE DAY”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 374

Whereas wildlife has provided numerous economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits during the course of human history, and wildlife preservation will secure these gifts for future generations;

Whereas each plant and animal species plays an important role in the stability of diverse ecosystems around the world, and the conservation of this biodiversity is critical to maintain the delicate balance of nature and keep complex ecosystems thriving;

Whereas observation of wild plants and animals in their natural habitat provides individuals with a more enriching world view and a greater appreciation of the wonders of the natural environment;

Whereas tens of millions of individuals in the United States strongly support the conservation of wildlife, both domestically and abroad, and wish to ensure the survival of species in the wild, such as rhinoceroses, tigers, elephants, pangolins, turtles, seahorses, sharks, ginseng, mahogany, and cacti;

Whereas the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (referred to in this preamble as “CITES” and also known as the “Washington Convention”) was signed in Washington, DC, on March 3, 1973;

Whereas 179 countries, including the United States, are now parties to CITES;

Whereas CITES remains one of the most powerful tools in the world for biodiversity conservation by regulating international trade in wild plants and animals, including products and derivatives of wild plants and animals, ensuring the survival of plants and animals in the wild, and providing long-term benefits for the livelihood of local people and the global environment;

Whereas CITES seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal, and traceable;

Whereas the trafficking of wildlife, including timber and fish, comprises the fourth largest global illegal trade, after narcotics, counterfeiting of products and currency, and human trafficking, and has become a major transnational organized crime with an estimated worth of approximately \$19,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas increased demand in Asia for high-value illegal wildlife products, particularly elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns, has recently triggered substantial and rapid increases in poaching of these species, particularly in Africa;

Whereas trafficking of wildlife is the primary threat to many wildlife species, including elephants, rhinoceroses, and tigers;

Whereas many different kinds of criminals, including some terrorist entities and rogue security personnel, often in collusion with corrupt government officials, are involved in wildlife poaching and the movement of ivory and rhinoceros horns across Africa;

Whereas wildlife poaching presents significant security and stability challenges for military and police forces in African nations that are often threatened by heavily armed poachers and the criminal and extremist allies of such poachers;

Whereas wildlife poaching negatively impacts local communities that rely on natural resources for economic development, including tourism;

Whereas the lack of sufficient penal and financial deterrents hamper the ability of African governments to reduce poaching and trafficking;

Whereas capacity building, including material, training, legal, and diplomatic support, can significantly impact the trajectory of the illegal wildlife trade;

Whereas wildlife provides a multitude of benefits to all nations, and wildlife crime has wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts;

Whereas the number of elephants killed by poachers in Kenya increased by more than 800 percent from 2007 to 2012, from 47 to 387 elephants killed;

Whereas the number of rhinoceroses killed by poachers in South Africa increased by more than 7000 percent between 2007 and 2013, from 13 to 1004 rhinoceroses killed;

Whereas the number of forest elephants in the Congo Basin in central Africa declined by approximately two-thirds between 2002 and 2012, placing forest elephants on track for extinction within the next decade;

Whereas as few as 3200 tigers remain in the wild throughout all of Asia;

Whereas approximately 100,000,000 sharks are killed annually, often targeted solely for their fins, and unsustainable trade is the primary cause of serious population decline in several shark species, including scalloped hammerhead sharks, great hammerhead sharks, and oceanic whitetip sharks;

Whereas the United States is developing strong measures to address the criminal, financial, security, and environmental aspects of wildlife trafficking;

Whereas Congress has allocated specific resources to combat wildlife trafficking and address the threats posed by poaching and the illegal wildlife trade;

Whereas in December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 3, the day on which CITES was signed, as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the wild fauna and flora around the world;

Whereas March 3, 2014, represents the first annual celebration of World Wildlife Day; and

Whereas in 2014, World Wildlife Day commemorations will “celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora, raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that wildlife provides to people, and raise awareness of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime, which has wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 3, 2014, as “World Wildlife Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of World Wildlife Day, including—

(A) raising awareness of the benefits that wildlife provides to people and the threats facing wildlife around the world; and

(B) escalating the fight against wildlife crime, including wildlife trafficking;

(3) applauds the domestic and international efforts to escalate the fight against wildlife crime;

(4) commends the efforts of the United States to mobilize the entire Government in a coordinated, efficient, and effective manner for dramatic progress in the fight against wildlife crime;

(5) encourages continued cooperation between the United States, international partners, local communities, nonprofit organizations, private industry, and other partner organizations in an effort to conserve and celebrate wildlife, preserving this precious resource for future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 375—CONCERNING THE CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND SUPPORTING UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO END THE VIOLENCE, PROTECT CIVILIANS, AND ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT

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

S. RES. 375

Whereas, for more than 50 years, successive governments in the Central African Republic have struggled to build a durable system of democratic institutions, to effectively secure and control the country's territory and borders, and to ensure a basic level of socio-economic development for the country's people;

Whereas, despite its natural resource wealth, the Central African Republic remains one of the poorest countries in the world and one of the lowest ranking countries in terms of a human development index according to the United Nations Development Program;

Whereas, in January 2013, regional leaders brokered the Libreville Agreements between the government of then-President Francois Bozize and the loosely allied rebel militia known as Séléka, which resulted in the formation of a government of national unity;

Whereas, despite the Libreville Agreements, President Bozize was ousted in March 2013 by the Séléka coalition, and the Séléka leader, Michel Djotodia, declared himself president;

Whereas, in April 2013, regional leaders issued the N'djamena Declaration in an effort to pursue a return to constitutional order based on the Libreville Agreements;

Whereas an influx of foreign fighters, especially from Chad and Sudan, has been a major factor in the increased number of Séléka fighters, from approximately 5,000 in March 2013, to an estimated 20,000 as of December 2013;

Whereas both Séléka forces and armed militia groups known as “anti-balakas”, which formed initially as a means of protecting communities against Séléka, have been implicated in ethnically-motivated violence and grave and systemic human rights abuses against civilians;

Whereas, over the course of the crisis, Séléka and anti-balaka groups have displayed weak control and command structures, and committed war crimes with impunity;

Whereas, according to UNICEF, thousands of child soldiers are involved in armed groups in the Central African Republic, amid the near-total collapse of the country's primary education system;

Whereas interethnic, intercommunal, and interreligious tensions and violence have risen to alarming levels and led to systematic human rights abuses in the Central African Republic, including targeted killings, rapes, acts of torture, looting, and arbitrary detention;

Whereas the United States Embassy in Bangui closed on December 25, 2012, and the ordered departure of country team staff has temporarily suspended the diplomatic presence and consular services of the United States in the Central African Republic;

Whereas more than 700,000 civilians have been internally displaced; another 230,000 have recently sought refuge in neighboring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Cameroon, and South Sudan; 2,600,000 people, or over half of the population of the Central African Republic, are in need of humanitarian assistance; and 60 percent of households have no available food stocks;

Whereas a failure of the international community to appropriately respond to and address the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Central African Republic could result in further atrocities, mass displacement, and protracted instability with significant repercussions for regional and international security;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127 (2013) called for urgent and increased international assistance to the African Union International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to ensure that the force can fulfill its mandate to restore security and protect civilians, and placed an arms embargo on the Central African Republic;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127 requested the Secretary-General to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate reports of human rights abuses in the Central African Republic in order to ensure accountability for perpetrators of violence;

Whereas the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic has been hindered by a lack of resources and constrained by insecurity;

Whereas, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127, the Government of France launched a peacekeeping operation, Operation Sangaris, in the Central African Republic to assist MISCA in fulfilling its mandate;

Whereas, on March 3, 2014, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended to the United Nations Security Council a transition to a United Nations peacekeeping mission with a primary mandate to protect civilians; and

Whereas the United States Government is providing support for conflict resolution efforts, humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, and assistance to troop contributing countries to MISCA in order to restore security in the Central African Republic, primarily by providing airlift, non-lethal equipment, mili-

tary logistics, and training, as well as logistical support for France: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence, atrocities, abuses, and human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic;

(2) commends the efforts of religious and community leaders in the Central African Republic condemning violence and engaging in conflict prevention and conflict resolution activities;

(3) welcomes the mobilization of international peacekeeping, conflict mitigation, humanitarian, and diplomatic resources, and encourages continued efforts to help address humanitarian needs, bring an end to the violence, and develop sustainable democratic institutions in the Central African Republic;

(4) welcomes the January 2014 decision of the Transitional National Council on the election of Catherine Samba-Panza as the Central African Republic's new transitional president;

(5) commends the African Union and its troop and police contributing countries for their work establishing and supporting MISCA;

(6) recognizes the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAS) for its leadership in the political transition process;

(7) commends France for its swift intervention under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127, and for its contributions to stabilization efforts and other forms of assistance;

(8) welcomes the United Nations Security Council support for MISCA and the Department of Peacekeeping Operation's ongoing contingency planning for a possible transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation;

(9) affirms support for multilateral peacekeeping and policing capacities and recognizes the important contributions these efforts have made in protecting civilians in the Central African Republic and promoting international peace and stability;

(10) calls on the President to work with international partners to develop a short-term strategy to support a full and immediate cessation of armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including attacks targeting civilians and the recruitment of child soldiers;

(11) calls on the President to develop a long-term United States strategy, in support of international and domestic efforts, to establish a durable peace and greater security for the Central African Republic and to enhance regional stability, including—

(A) engagement and coordination with the international community, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations, and other partners;

(B) appropriate assistance to help provide emergency relief and reconciliation for the people of the Central African Republic;

(C) technical, logistical and other forms of assistance, as appropriate, in support of effective disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of fighters; and

(D) support for appropriate mechanisms to ensure accountability for perpetrators of human rights abuses and violence; and

(12) urges the Secretary of State to consider the expeditious reestablishment of a United States diplomatic presence in the Central African Republic.