

I would also add that Judge POE's resolution comes at a crucial time because the Kremlin is trying to convince the Georgian people that we have abandoned them and that they have no choice but to submit to Moscow.

I think by passing this resolution we will send our own message. We will send a powerful message of support to the people of Georgia and ensure that, when the Georgians cast their vote in next month's parliamentary elections, they will do so confident that the American people will stand by them.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution (H. Res. 660) to support the territorial integrity of Georgia.

I want to thank my good friends and colleagues Mr. POE and Mr. CONNOLLY for introducing this excellent resolution, which condemns Russia's ongoing illegal activities along the occupation line in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Mr. Speaker, Russia's invasion and occupation of Georgian territory violates the Helsinki Final Act, as well as the core principles of several multilateral agreements, the Budapest Memorandum, and the United Nations Charter. The United States has not recognized Russia's illegal attempt to separate Abkhazia and South Ossetia from Georgia as legitimate in any way—and this resolution sends a powerful message that in this policy the administration has the full support of Congress.

I was in Georgia in August, 2008, arriving about two weeks after the Russian invasion. The human suffering generated by the invasion was immense, with over 192,000 people displaced and several hundred killed. Several of my constituents found themselves trapped behind Russian lines in South Ossetia—and we were able to get them out with help from our very capable ambassador, John Tefft, now serving as our ambassador to Russia, and the assistance of another country's diplomatic mission.

The Russian occupation of Georgian territory is a festering sore that has not healed in the eight years that have elapsed since the invasion.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution notes: "the Russian Federation is building barbed wire fences and installing, so-called 'border signs' and other artificial barriers along the occupation line and depriving the people residing within the occupied regions and in the adjacent areas of their fundamental rights and freedoms."

Mr. Speaker, I saw this new Iron Curtain with my own eyes in July. I was in Georgia, leading the U.S. Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and made a visit to what our embassy calls the occupation line with some of my congressional colleagues. We looked over Russia's fortified line from an observation platform—and what we saw reminded me of the old Soviet Union. The Russian troops came to the checkpoint and made people wait upwards of 12 hours to cross over with foodstuffs and reach people on the other side. A Russian guard used a camera to film me and the other members who were standing on the platform. Tensions were thick.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution comes at a timely moment, as Georgia prepares for its parliamentary elections in October. It reminds

Georgians as they prepare to go to the polls that the U.S. supports them in their efforts to develop a sovereign, independent, and prosperous country.

I thank my good friend Mr. POE for introducing this resolution in support of Georgia and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 660, expressing support for the territorial integrity of Georgia.

I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for shepherding this measure through the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

I introduced this resolution with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Georgia, Judge TED POE.

It serves as a clear and unequivocal statement in support of the sovereign territory of Georgia and it reiterates the longstanding policy of the United States to not recognize territorial changes effected by force, as dictated by the Stimson Doctrine—established in 1932 by then Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson.

In Georgia and elsewhere in the region, Russia has committed gross violations of these principles by fomenting unrest and aiding separatist movements in the countries along its periphery.

Foundational multilateral agreements reached for the purpose of maintaining a peaceful and stable international order, such as the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and the Charter of the United Nations, have been willfully disregarded by Russia at Putin's behest.

This resolution condemns strongly the forcible and illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions in Georgia, and calls on Russia to withdraw its troops from the territories.

Russian forces continue to harass civilian communities along the administrative boundary line and impede the right of return of internally displaced persons.

This resolution is about restoring the territorial integrity of a sovereign state and upholding the commitments and promise of the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership—a framework founded on support for each other's sovereignty, the strengthening of Georgian democracy, and the Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia.

Support for this resolution would be consistent with the recent Warsaw Summit Communiqué issued by the NATO Heads of State and Government on July 9, 2016 in which NATO reaffirmed its support for the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Georgia.

I would ask that my colleagues support this important and timely resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 660.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA-JAPAN TRI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 634) recognizing the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation, and to ensure regional security and human rights.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 634

Whereas, on January 6, 2016, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test and on February 6, 2016, North Korea conducted an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile technology test, both constituting direct and egregious violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas each of the governments of the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Japan have condemned the tests, underscoring the importance of a strong and united international response;

Whereas the ROK President Park Geun-hye and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have agreed to work with the United States both to institute strong measures in reaction to North Korean provocations, and to prevent North Korea from becoming a nuclear weapons state;

Whereas the United States, ROK, and Japan have signed a framework to enhance information sharing called the "Trilateral Information Sharing Arrangement Concerning the Nuclear and Missile Threats Posed by North Korea";

Whereas Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea (ROK), is 35 miles from the Demilitarized Zone, and Japan is 650 miles from North Korea, both within reach of North Korea's weapons;

Whereas North Korea already has an estimated stockpile of nuclear material that could be converted into 13-21 nuclear weapons, with clear intentions to continue building its nuclear arsenal;

Whereas North Korea consistently conducts destabilizing domestic military drills, including firing short range missiles into the territorial waters of its neighbors;

Whereas Admiral William Gortney, Commander of the United States Northern Command has assessed on October 5, 2015, that the North Koreans "have the capability to reach the [U.S.] homeland with a nuclear weapon from a rocket" and U.S. Forces Korea Commander General Curtis M. Scaparrotti said on October 24, 2014, that North Koreans "have the capability to have miniaturized the device [a nuclear warhead] at this point, and they have the technology to potentially deliver what they say they have";

Whereas the United States' deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system would greatly improve the ROK's missile defense capabilities and the ability of the United States-ROK-Japan cooperative efforts to deter North Korea's threats and provocations;

Whereas from June 20, 2016, through June 28, 2016, the United States Navy, the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, and the Republic of Korea Navy conducted their third biennial Pacific Dragon exercise, a trilateral event focusing on ballistic missile defense;

Whereas the Report of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on human rights in

North Korea highlights that North Korea's own citizens are starved of life's basic necessities and basic human rights;

Whereas the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has established a field-based structure for assessing continued North Korean human rights violations in Seoul, with the strong support of the Governments of the United States, ROK, and Japanese governments; and

Whereas a strong United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship is a stabilizing force for peace and security in the region, with capabilities to combat future provocations from North Korea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns North Korea's nuclear tests, missile launches, and continued provocations;

(2) reaffirms the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea (ROK)-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korea's destabilizing activities and nuclear proliferation, and to bolster regional security;

(3) supports joint military exercises and other efforts to strengthen cooperation, improve defense capabilities, and oppose regional threats like North Korea;

(4) encourages the deployment and United States-ROK-Japan coordination of regional advanced ballistic missile defense systems against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and provocations;

(5) calls for the expansion of information and intelligence sharing and sustained diplomatic cooperation between the United States, ROK, and Japan; and

(6) underscores the importance of the trilateral relationship in tracking North Korea human rights violations and holding it accountable for its abuses against its citizens and the citizens of other countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 634, recognizing the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation, and to ensure regional security and human rights.

With North Korea's continued bellicose rhetoric and their belligerent actions, it is critical that we stand with our Korean and Japanese allies to ensure the stability of the Asia Pacific. And this resolution expresses strong support for not only increased trilateral cooperation, but for the deployment of the missile defense system, THAAD, which will be deployed late next year.

Importantly, this bill states that a strong United States-Republic of

Korea-Japan trilateral relationship is a stabilizing force for peace and security in the region with capabilities to combat future provocations from North Korea. Today, with an ever more belligerent North Korea, this partnership has never been more crucial.

As we know, only weeks ago, the Kim regime test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile. Although the missile traveled only 310 miles in the direction of Japan, clearly Pyongyang is one step closer to being able to target any site in the Pacific. Our governments rightly stood side by side condemning this act.

Mr. Speaker, our defense cooperation with South Korea and Japan is strong, but we must remain vigilant. While there are a seemingly inexhaustible number of threats around the world, I believe Navy Admiral Harry Harris, commander of PACOM, was fundamentally correct when he identified North Korea, for now, and Kim Jong-un as the greatest immediate threat to Asia, the Pacific, and the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support our close alliances with South Korea and Japan and pass this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure. Let me start by thanking the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON), the chair of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for offering this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Kim regime in North Korea has again shown the world that it has no intention of abandoning its destabilizing and provocative pattern of behavior. The recent missile launches are a reminder that we must keep up the pressure on that rogue country.

I am glad President Obama and President Park of South Korea met this week about these latest tests, and I am glad they agreed that the new U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang should be fully implemented.

That meeting was a reminder that one of our best tools for dealing with North Korea is the United States-Japan-South Korea trilateral relationship. These ties allow our countries to coordinate more closely on security issues, to share intelligence more quickly and effectively, and to pack a bigger punch as we work to hold the Kim regime in North Korea accountable for its atrocious record and dangerous record and terrible record on human rights.

I visited North Korea twice, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you the people of that country deserve much, much better. In my view, we should be looking for ways to work even more closely with South Korea and Japan; and we need to keep up the pressure on China and Russia to do more to address the challenge of North Korea. China can put pressure on North Korea. China is the only one that can control what North Korea does, and yet all we get is lip service. It is not acceptable.

So I am glad to support this measure. It sends a message that Congress understands the value of this trilateral relationship as a cornerstone of regional stability.

I thank Chairman ROYCE, and I thank Mr. SALMON for his hard work and leadership.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON). He is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He is also author of this measure, but I wanted to thank him particularly for his deep engagement in Asia on this and so many other issues as well.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 634, recognizing the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation, and to ensure regional security and human rights.

I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their support of this legislation as well as all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for this bipartisan effort.

As we have all seen, North Korea continues its provocations, which we saw again as recently as 2 days ago, when Kim Jong-Un's regime launched three more missiles during the final day of the G20 summit. Not only did this fly in the face of multiple U.N. resolutions, but was a calculated challenge to the international order.

The administration's strategy of strategic patience with North Korea clearly has not worked. What is also clear is that we must work proactively with our allies to counter North Korean threats and nuclear proliferation.

The Republic of Korea-Japan relationship has improved dramatically in recent years as each partner has recognized the shared interests and values of the other, demonstrated by the deep and longstanding alliances each of them has with the United States. Our three nations working together as one against North Korea's threats will foster improved regional security and secure fundamental human rights for the North Korean people.

I have no doubt that North Korea will continue its provocations, and we must stand firm with our allies to counter its aggression. This resolution puts forth congressional intent to bolster the trilateral relationship and offers further support for regional ballistic missile defense systems.

Our alliances with Korea and Japan are the cornerstones of peace and security in northeast Asia. We enjoy robust security with both countries, from the forward deployment of assets, to joint military exercises, to information and intelligence sharing. In fact, Korea recently elected to deploy, as Mr. ROYCE just referred to, the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system,

known as THAAD, which will support existing U.S. and Japanese assets in the region in our mission to deter North Korean aggression. In light of North Korea's ongoing nuclear tests and missile launches, it is imperative that the United States work even more closely with these allies to counter this persistent threat.

I introduced this resolution to reaffirm the importance of the trilateral relationship in this tense and unstable time. It supports regional allied responses to North Korean threats and human rights abuses, and calls for expansion of information sharing and other diplomatic relationships between our three countries.

This is a very important measure for the security of our homeland; that of our allies, Korea and Japan; and the international community at large. I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I will close now if there are no speakers on the other side. If there is a speaker, then I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). He is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman for yielding and for his leadership on this issue and Ranking Member ENGEL, and especially thank Chairman SALMON for authoring this important piece of legislation.

North Korea, as we know, poses an existential threat to its neighbors and requires constant vigilance and close cooperation of regional allies. The alliance between the United States, South Korea, and Japan is vital to curtail North Korea's ever-worsening saber rattling and to ensure regional security and human rights.

A strong relationship between the region's leading democracies is also critically important to provide a balance to China's increasingly uncertain diplomacy. China subsidizes North Korea's bad behavior, enables the torture of asylum seekers by repatriating those who escape to China in direct contravention of the Refugee Convention, which they have signed and ratified, and provides Kim Jong-Un needed currency by employing thousands of trafficked workers.

Though the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on North Korea recommended the U.N. impose targeted sanctions on the North Korean leaders responsible for massive crimes against humanity, China blocked effective U.N. actions. That is why the U.S., South Korea, and Japan must work together to identify and list those North Koreans responsible for egregious human rights abuses.

Pyeongyang's enablers, abusers, and nuclear customers must be identified, and those responsible individuals for

gross human rights violations ought to be held to account individually.

There is growing evidence that sanctions are having some effect. We know that high-level diplomats and military leaders are defecting, recognizing that they will be held accountable if they continue to support Kim Jong-Un's barbaric regime.

The trilateral relationship is also critically important to ensure regional security. North Korea's nuclear quest and the multiple recent tests of missile technology demonstrate again that China cannot or will not control its protege. Despite China's objections, there is need for deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system and to conduct joint military exercises to strengthen coordination and cooperation posed by the threat of the North Korean military.

I support the resolution strongly and hope the House votes unanimously for it.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and Mr. SALMON for letting me speak in support of this resolution. I have worked very closely over the last several years with the Embassy of Japan. I was honored, for example, to host the Deputy Ambassador last month in Utah. My parents lived for 3 years as a military family in Japan, and I remember growing up, our house was filled with Japanese art and beautiful bonsai trees. I also feel a personal connection with South Korea, where one of my sons served as a missionary for 2 years. Both Japan and South Korea are not only critical allies of the United States, but they are critical to security and to peace throughout Asia.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am reminded every day that we live in a dangerous world. On top of the list of dangerous challenges is North Korea, which is a brutal, thuggish, repressive regime that unquestionably challenges international security and stability. For example, as has been mentioned here a number of times now, we learned just within the last few weeks that three new ballistic missiles had been launched toward Japan. Unfortunately, this isn't new. Reports of similar missile launches from North Korea seem to be almost routine, and that is why this resolution is so important. Not only does it condemn North Korea's nuclear test and missile launches, it also reaffirms the importance of a strong relationship, once again, between Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

A strong relationship between our three countries is more important now than it ever has been before, as we coordinate more advanced regional bal-

listic missile defense systems and work to counter North Korea's destabilizing activities.

Shifting gears just a little bit, I would also like to take a moment to mention an American student, David Sneddon, who disappeared in 2004 without explanation while hiking in southwest China. He was fluent in Korean, and some respective experts have suggested that he may have been abducted by North Korea to train their intelligence operatives in English and Western culture. Recently—in fact, just last week—a news outlet in Japan reported that a North Korea defector had seen David and that he was alive, that he was teaching English in North Korea.

I have sponsored a House resolution that asks the State Department to investigate the theory that David may have been abducted by the North Korean regime, and I urge the House to vote on this important resolution. That is why this resolution that we are speaking about today is so important. It is one of the foundations that is necessary in order for us to move forward on these others. So I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 634, as a strong United States, Japan, and South Korea relationship is critical to stopping North Korea expansion and operating as a criminal enterprise.

I thank the chairman again for letting me speak on behalf of this resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that greater stability and security across the Asia Pacific needs to be a top priority for the United States. Our interests in the alliances in that part of the world are only growing more and more important with each passing day.

So when we see a threat like North Korea, we need to work with our partners in the region to respond. That is why our trilateral ties with South Korea and Japan are so important. This is an alliance that has underpinned and will continue to underpin security in Asia for years to come, and we are doing the right thing by voicing our strong support for it. I support this measure, and I ask all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just point out that as Kim Jong-Un continues to ratchet up his aggressive actions, we need to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Korean and Japanese allies, and part of this also means being more proactive in implementing the North Korea sanctions law that was passed earlier this year.

It is unacceptable that no Chinese companies have yet been sanctioned under the new law by the administration. We are working on that, but today this resolution before us sends a very strong signal that our trilateral partnership will remain a standard for security in the Asia Pacific. I urge all Members' support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 634, expressing support for the U.S.-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship.

The United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral relationship is strategically vital to countering the provocations emanating from North Korea, and this resolution provides guidance for what should be our shared priorities in addressing the threat posed by the paranoid regime in Pyongyang.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I remain deeply concerned with the volatility and ever-present potential of conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

It is a specter that looms over 75 million Koreans and, for their sake and that of the region, the U.S., the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and other regional stakeholders must demonstrate commitment to addressing this threat.

The Korean Peninsula is one of the most dangerous flashpoints on the globe. There have been recent developments in the North Korea saga that are profoundly troubling and deserve an immediate response from Congress.

North Korea's fourth nuclear weapons test and ongoing ballistic missile tests confirm that the regime in Pyongyang is committed to defying international norms and destabilizing the Asia-Pacific region.

This resolution, sanctions passed by Congress, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2270, the R.O.K.'s decision to close Kaesong Industrial Complex, and the recent agreement to deploy the THAAD missile defense system to the Peninsula constitute a concerted effort to target North Korea's illicit trade networks and protect a vital U.S. ally from the illicit nuclear program that has made North Korea a world pariah.

The North Korean threat endangers the security and stability of close and valued defense treaty allies, the R.O.K. and Japan.

The U.S. has met this challenge with security assurances, military resources, deepened economic ties, and an effort to marshal the opposition of the international community against a nuclear armed North Korea.

We must continue to demonstrate the resolve to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 634, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EDUCATION FOR ALL ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4481) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of

the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4481

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Education for All Act of 2016”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 3. Assistance to promote sustainable, quality basic education.

Sec. 4. Comprehensive integrated United States strategy to promote basic education.

Sec. 5. Improving coordination and oversight.

Sec. 6. Monitoring and evaluation of programs.

Sec. 7. Transparency and reporting to Congress.

Sec. 8. Definitions.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) education lays the foundation for increased civic participation, democratic governance, sustained economic growth, and healthier, more stable societies;

(2) it is in the national interest of the United States to promote access to sustainable, quality universal basic education in developing countries;

(3) United States resources and leadership should be utilized in a manner that best ensures a successful international effort to provide children in developing countries with a quality basic education in order to achieve the goal of quality universal basic education; and

(4) promoting gender parity in basic education from childhood through adolescence serves United States diplomatic, economic, and security interests worldwide.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE, QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION.

Section 105 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE, QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION.—

“(1) POLICY.—In carrying out this section, it shall be the policy of the United States to work with partner countries, other donors, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and nongovernmental and civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations and organizations that represent teachers, students, and parents, to promote sustainable, quality basic education through programs and activities that, consistent with Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—

“(A) align with and respond to the needs, capacities, and commitment of developing countries to strengthen educational systems, expand access to safe learning environments, ensure continuity of education, measurably improve teacher skills and learning outcomes, and support the engagement of parents in the education of their children, so that all children, including marginalized children and other vulnerable groups, may have access to and benefit from quality basic education; and

“(B) promote education as a foundation for sustained economic growth and development within a holistic assistance strategy that places partner countries on a trajectory toward graduation from assistance provided under this section and contributes to improved—

“(i) early childhood development;

“(ii) life skills and workforce development;

“(iii) economic opportunity;

“(iv) gender parity;

“(v) food and nutrition security;

“(vi) water, sanitation, and hygiene;

“(vii) health and disease prevention and treatment;

“(viii) disaster preparedness;

“(ix) conflict and violence reduction, mitigation, and prevention; and

“(x) democracy and governance; and

“(C) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and quality of basic education programs.

“(2) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the policy referred to in paragraph (1), the United States shall be guided by the following principles of aid effectiveness:

“(A) ALIGNMENT.—Assistance provided under this section to support programs and activities under this subsection shall be aligned with and advance United States diplomatic, development, and national security interests.

“(B) COUNTRY OWNERSHIP.—To the greatest extent practicable, assistance provided under this section to support programs and activities under this subsection should be aligned with and support the national education plans and country development strategies of partner countries, including activities that are appropriate for and meet the needs of local and indigenous cultures.

“(C) COORDINATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Assistance provided under this section to support programs and activities under this subsection should be coordinated with and leverage the unique capabilities and resources of local and national governments in partner countries, other donors, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and nongovernmental and civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations and organizations that represent teachers, students, and parents.

“(ii) MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.—Assistance provided under this section to support programs and activities under this subsection should be coordinated with and support proven multilateral education programs and financing mechanisms, which may include the Global Partnership for Education, that demonstrate commitment to efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability.

“(D) EFFICIENCY.—The President shall seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance provided under this section to support programs and activities under this subsection by coordinating the related efforts of relevant Executive branch agencies and officials, including efforts to increase gender parity and to provide a continuity of basic education activities in humanitarian responses and other emergency settings.

“(E) EFFECTIVENESS.—Programs and activities supported under this subsection shall be designed to achieve specific, measurable goals and objectives and shall include appropriate targets, metrics and indicators that can be applied with reasonable consistency across such programs and activities to measure progress and outcomes.

“(F) TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—Programs and activities supported under this subsection shall be subject to rigorous monitoring and evaluation, which may include impact evaluations, the results of which shall be made publically available in a fully searchable, electronic format.

“(3) PRIORITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The President shall ensure that assistance provided under this section to support programs and activities under this subsection is aligned with the diplomatic, economic, and national security interests of the United