

Whereas the United States is cooperating with ASEAN member states and providing emergency health assistance to enhance their resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the recently announced United States-ASEAN Health Futures program that builds on the over \$3,500,000,000 the United States has invested in global health collaboration with ASEAN nations over the last 20 years;

Whereas the United States remains committed to working with ASEAN to improve the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental dignity of the people of ASEAN countries, a key ingredient to maintaining stability, promoting economic growth, and advancing good governance;

Whereas the United States opposes all actions and claims that infringe upon the freedom and lawful use of the sea, and has a national interest in ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight, open access to the Indo-Pacific region's maritime commons, and respect for international law in the South China Sea;

Whereas the United States is deeply concerned about recent assertive and unsafe behavior by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea, and urges all claimants with competing territorial claims to seek peaceful resolution of disputes through collaborative diplomacy and, as necessary, international arbitration mechanisms consistent with international law;

Whereas the United States supports the Philippines' decision to use arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982, to peacefully and lawfully address competing claims;

Whereas the United States supports development of a Code of Conduct (COC) that represents the interests of all parties and promotes peace and stability in the region, opposes efforts by any nation to use a COC as a vehicle to limit presence in or lawful use of the South China Sea, encourages claimants not to undertake new or unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including reclamation activities or administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea, and encourages ASEAN countries to adopt a unified position in negotiating the COC;

Whereas the ASEAN-United States Maritime Exercise (AUXM), which ran from September 2-6, 2019, and featured over 1,000 sailors from all 11 countries, built greater maritime security on the strength of ASEAN, strengthened navy-to-navy bonds, and exemplified our shared belief in a free and open Indo-Pacific; and

Whereas natural disasters in the ASEAN region over the past four decades have resulted in major loss and damage, with a disproportionate impact on developing countries, and the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with sustainable long-term economic development, including the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation; improvement of conservation and sustainable management of forests, fish stocks, and oceanic resources; resilience to extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency and severity; and provision of sustainable livelihoods for local communities throughout the ASEAN region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports and affirms the full implementation of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115-409) with regard to elevating the United States relationship with ASEAN;

(2) stands with the nations of ASEAN as they respond to COVID-19 and supports greater cooperation in building capacity to

prepare for and respond to pandemics and other public health challenges;

(3) expresses support for rescheduling the United States-ASEAN Special Summit at an appropriate time, and supports high-level United States participation in the annual ASEAN summit held each November;

(4) reaffirms the importance of United States-ASEAN economic engagement, including the elimination of barriers to cross-border commerce, and supports the ASEAN Economic Community's (AEC) goals, including strong, inclusive, and sustainable long-term economic growth and cooperation with the United States that focuses on innovation and capacity-building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and trade facilitation, particularly for ASEAN's poorest countries;

(5) urges ASEAN to continue its efforts to foster greater integration and unity within the ASEAN community, as well as to foster greater integration and unity with non-ASEAN economic, political, and security partners, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the European Union, Taiwan, and India;

(6) recognizes the value of strategic economic initiatives like United States-ASEAN Connect, which demonstrates a commitment to ASEAN and the AEC and builds upon economic relationships in the region;

(7) supports ASEAN nations in addressing maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and in pursuing claims through peaceful, diplomatic, and, as necessary, legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea that represents the interests of all parties and promotes peace and stability in the region;

(8) urges all parties involved in the maritime and territorial disputes in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to cease any current activities, and avoid undertaking any actions in the future, that undermine stability, or complicate or escalate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force;

(B) to demilitarize islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, and refrain from new efforts to militarize, including the construction of new garrisons and facilities and the relocation of additional military personnel, material, or equipment;

(C) to oppose actions by any country that prevent other countries from exercising their sovereign rights to the resources in their exclusive economic zones (EEZ) and continental shelves by enforcing claims to those areas in the South China Sea that lack support in international law; and

(D) to oppose unilateral declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea;

(9) urges parties to refrain from unilateral actions that cause permanent physical damage to the marine environment, and supports the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and ASEAN to implement guidelines to address the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the region;

(10) supports efforts by United States partners and allies in ASEAN—

(A) to enhance maritime capability and maritime domain awareness;

(B) to protect unhindered access to and use of international waterways in the Indo-Pacific region that are critical to ensuring the security and free flow of commerce;

(C) to counter piracy;

(D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking activities such as the trafficking of persons, goods, and drugs; and

(E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of countries or regional organizations to respond to emerging threats to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region;

(11) urges ASEAN member states to develop a common approach to reaffirm the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration's 2016 ruling in favor of the Republic of the Philippines in the case against the People's Republic of China's excessive maritime claims;

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons, and urges ASEAN to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(13) supports the Lower Mekong Initiative, which has led to significant progress in promoting sustainable long-term economic development in mainland Southeast Asia and fostering integrated sub-regional cooperation and capacity building;

(14) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights by ASEAN member states, and the implementation of related priorities, programs, and activities;

(15) urges ASEAN governments to engage directly with leaders of civil society and human rights, including advocates of religious freedom, victims of human rights abuses, and environmental groups, and to ensure these stakeholders have a voice in constructing public policy;

(16) encourages the President of the United States to communicate to ASEAN leaders the importance of promoting the rule of law and open and transparent government, strengthening civil society, and protecting human rights, including releasing political prisoners, ceasing politically motivated prosecutions and arbitrary killings, safeguarding freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech and expression;

(17) supports efforts by organizations in ASEAN that address corruption in the public and private sectors, enhance anti-bribery compliance, enforce bribery criminalization in the private sector, and build beneficial ownership transparency through the ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT project partnered with the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC);

(18) supports the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative as an example of a people-to-people partnership that provides skills, networks, and leadership training to a new generation who will create and fill jobs, foster cross-border cooperation and partnerships, and rise to solve the regional and global challenges of the future; and

(19) applauds the ASEAN governments that have fully upheld and implemented all United Nations Security Council resolutions and international agreements with respect to North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, and encourages all other ASEAN governments to do the same.

EASTERN EUROPEAN SECURITY ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2444 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2444) to authorize the Secretary of State to make direct loans under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2444) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON AND SEPARATIST ARMED GROUPS FROM THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST REGIONS TO END ALL VIOLENCE, RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL CAMEROONIANS, AND PURSUE A GENUINELY INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE TOWARD RESOLVING THE ONGOING CIVIL CONFLICT IN ANGLOPHONE CAMEROON

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 684.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 684) calling on the Government of Cameroon and separatist armed groups from the English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions to end all violence, respect the human rights of all Cameroonians, and pursue a genuinely inclusive dialogue toward resolving the ongoing civil conflict in Anglophone Cameroon.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Risch amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Risch amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2736), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns abuses committed by state security forces and armed groups in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon, including extrajudicial killings and detentions, the use of force against civilians and nonviolent protestors, torture, rape, kidnappings, and other forms of violence against women, and violations of the freedoms of press, expression, and assembly;

(2) urges all parties to the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon, including political opposition groups, to—

(A) conclude and uphold an immediate ceasefire;

(B) guarantee unfettered humanitarian access and assistance to the Northwest and Southwest regions;

(C) exercise restraint and ensure that political protests are peaceful; and

(D) establish a credible process for an inclusive dialogue that includes all relevant stakeholders, including from civil society, to achieve a sustainable political solution that respects the rights and freedoms of all of the people of Cameroon;

(3) affirms that the United States Government continues to hold the Government of Cameroon responsible for safeguarding the safety, security, and constitutional rights of all citizens, regardless of their region of origin or the regions in which they reside, or their religious beliefs or political views;

(4) urges the Government of Cameroon to—

(A) initiate a credible, inclusive, good-faith effort to end the armed conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon by addressing the root causes of the crisis and grievances and seeking nonviolent solutions to resolve the conflict, including possibly involving an independent mediator in negotiations;

(B) follow through on initiatives developed to address the grievances that sparked the conflict, including the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, and the National Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Committee;

(C) fully implement recommendations of the Major National Dialogue held in late 2019;

(D) respect the rule of law and the constitutional rights of all Cameroonians, including members of the political opposition, civil society activists, and journalists;

(E) allow for credible, independent, and transparent investigations of all allegations of human rights abuses committed in the Northwest and Southwest regions;

(F) release all political prisoners and journalists currently detained and immediately stop all arbitrary detention, torture, forced disappearances, deaths in custody, and inhumane prison conditions; and

(G) work with United States law enforcement to thoroughly investigate and prosecute those responsible for the murder of Charles Wescio;

(5) urges the Anglophone armed separatist groups to—

(A) engage peacefully with government officials to express grievances and engage in nonviolent efforts to resolve the conflict, including participation in a credible and inclusive dialogue, possibly involving an independent mediator;

(B) immediately cease human rights abuses, including killings of civilians, torture, kidnapping, and extortion;

(C) immediately end coercive and violent enforcement of the school boycott in the Northwest and Southwest regions and attacks on schools, teachers, and education officials, and allow for the peaceful and safe return of all students to class; and

(D) publicly condemn the illegal detention and kidnapping of civilians;

(6) urges the Department of State, Department of the Treasury, and United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to—

(A) consider imposing targeted sanctions on individual government and separatist leaders "responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights";

(B) press the Government of Cameroon to provide unfettered humanitarian access to

vulnerable populations in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon;

(C) support credible efforts to address the root causes of the conflict and to achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation, possibly involving an independent mediator, and efforts to aid the economic recovery of and fight coronavirus in the Northwest and Southwest regions;

(D) support humanitarian and development programming, including to meet immediate needs, advance nonviolent conflict resolution and reconciliation, promote economic recovery and development, support primary and secondary education, and strengthen democratic processes, including political decentralization, enshrined as a fundamental principle of state governance in the Constitution of Cameroon;

(E) continue to limit security assistance to Cameroon and ensure that United States training and equipment is not being used to facilitate human rights abuses in the Northwest and Southwest regions;

(F) prioritize efforts to help develop and sustain effective, professional civilian oversight of law enforcement and security services in Cameroon to ensure they are held accountable for abuses; and

(G) engage in an ongoing effort to ensure that the crisis in the Anglophone regions is discussed in international fora, including the United Nations Security Council, that focus on urgent international diplomatic engagement and response; and

(7) urges members of the international community to—

(A) join in a strategic collective effort to pressure the Government of Cameroon and separatist armed groups, including through the use of available diplomatic and punitive tools, to immediately conclude and uphold a ceasefire, participate in an inclusive and meaningful dialogue to address the root causes of the conflict and pending grievances, and seek nonviolent solutions to the conflict, including by possibly involving an independent and credible international mediator;

(B) mobilize and coordinate funding for local and international organizations to provide humanitarian and development assistance, including to fight coronavirus, to communities affected by the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon;

(C) leverage bilateral relationships to encourage key partners of Cameroon, particularly France, to help foster a peaceful resolution to the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon, potentially with the involvement of an independent mediator, and implement a mutually agreed-upon program to address longstanding grievances and marginalization; and

(D) use regional and international fora, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, and the United Nations Security Council to—

(i) discuss the ongoing crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon;

(ii) push for a cessation of violence, an expedient resolution, and the implementation of a mutually agreed-upon program for addressing the root causes and pending grievances; and

(iii) maintain calls for the investigation and prosecution of human rights abuses and crimes committed against civilians.

The resolution (S. Res. 684), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2737), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following: