

Whereas, on February 11, 2009, the parties finally formed the transitional government;

Whereas there has since been some progress toward the implementation of the Global Political Agreement, including positive steps by the Ministry of Finance, such as the issuance of a Short Term Economic Recovery Program (STERP) and the abandonment of the Zimbabwe dollar in favor of foreign currencies;

Whereas many of the reform-minded individuals within the new transitional government are limited by a severe lack of qualified personnel and material resources;

Whereas the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement continues to be obstructed by hardliners in the government, and important issues regarding senior government appointments remain unresolved, notably the status of the current Reserve Bank Governor and the Attorney General;

Whereas ZANU-PF officials have made efforts to obstruct implementation of the Global Political Agreement as they continue to arrest legitimate journalists and human rights activists and delay the swearing into office of properly designated officials nominated by MDC; and

Whereas the security forces continue to operate outside the rule of law, condoning land invasions, restrictions on media access and freedoms, and harassment, arbitrary arrests, and detention of civil society activists in Zimbabwe; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States Government, in coordination with other democratic governments and international institutions desiring to help the people of Zimbabwe, should—

(1) continue to provide humanitarian assistance to meet the urgent needs of the people of Zimbabwe;

(2) make available increased resources for nongovernmental entities to provide assistance and to pay salaries or fees to appropriately qualified people in Zimbabwe to enable progress to be made in the critical areas of education, health, water, and sanitation;

(3) welcome and encourage responsible efforts by the international community to support, strengthen, and extend reforms made by ministries within the Government of Zimbabwe, especially the Ministry of Finance;

(4) provide concrete financial and technical assistance in response to requests from the people of Zimbabwe and civil society organizations in their efforts to draft and enact a new constitution based on democratic values and principles that would enable the country to hold fair and free elections at an early date;

(5) work with and encourage regional governments and leaders to promote human rights, the restoration of the rule of law, and economic growth in Zimbabwe;

(6) maintain the existing ban on the transfer of defense items and services and the suspension of most non-humanitarian government-to-government assistance until there is demonstrable progress toward restoring the rule of law, civilian control over security forces, and respect for human rights in Zimbabwe; and

(7) support the continuation and updating of financial sanctions and travel bans targeted against those individuals responsible for the deliberate breakdown of the rule of law, politically motivated violence, and other ongoing illegal activities in Zimbabwe.

RECOGNIZING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ILO ADOPTION OF CONVENTION 182

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 177, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 177) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the International Labour Organization's unanimous adoption of Convention 182, "Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour."

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 177) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 177

Whereas on June 17, 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously adopted Convention 182, "Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour", done at Geneva (T. Doc. 106-5) (in this preamble referred to as the "Convention");

Whereas on August 5, 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton submitted the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent;

Whereas on October 21, 1999, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, under the chairmanship of Senator Jesse Helms, considered the Convention, and on November 3, 1999, reported it out of committee;

Whereas on November 5, 1999, the Senate unanimously agreed to the resolution of advice and consent to the ratification of the Convention;

Whereas on December 2, 1999, President Clinton signed the instruments of ratification of the Convention, as the United States became the third country to ratify the Convention;

Whereas the terms of the Convention apply to all children under 18 years of age and define the worst forms of child labor to include slavery and practices similar to slavery (including the sale and trafficking of children), forced or compulsory labor, debt bondage and serfdom, child prostitution and child pornography, the use of children in illegal activities (including drug production and trafficking), and work that is likely to jeopardize the health, safety, or morals of children;

Whereas the stated goals of the Convention include the effective elimination of the worst forms of child labor, ensuring that the parties take into account the importance of free basic education, removal of children from all work that is in violation of the Convention, and provision of rehabilitation and social integration for children who have engaged in work that it is in violation of the Convention;

Whereas since 1995, the United States has become the largest contributor to the ILO's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor;

Whereas the Department of Labor has funded 220 projects through the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor that have affected 1,300,000 children in 82 countries who were rescued from or prevented from entering the worst forms of child labor;

Whereas in May 2000, the United States Government enacted the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-200), which included a provision that requires countries receiving duty-free access to the United States marketplace to take steps to implement the terms of the Convention in order to retain such trade privileges;

Whereas between 2000 and 2004, the worst forms of child labor declined worldwide, as the overall number of child laborers fell by 11 percent, from 246,000,000 to 218,000,000, and the number of young child laborers was reduced by 33 percent;

Whereas between 2000 and 2004, the number of children between 5 and 17 years of age who performed hazardous work fell by 26 percent, from 171,000,000 to 126,000,000; and

Whereas on the 10th anniversary of its adoption, a total of 183 countries have ratified the Convention: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the worst forms of child labor should not be tolerated, whether they occur in the United States or other countries; and

(2) on the 10th anniversary of its adoption, all parties to Convention 182, "Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour", done at Geneva June 17, 1999 (T. Doc. 106-5), should work toward its full implementation to realize the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labor.

SUPPORTING OLYMPIC DAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 178 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 178) supporting Olympic Day on June 23, 2009, and encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago, Illinois, as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 178) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 178

Whereas Olympic Day, June 23, 2009, celebrates the Olympic ideal of developing peace through sport;

Whereas June 23 marks the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, the date on which the Congress of