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S. 2433

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7, 2007

Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Poverty Act
3 of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) More than 1,000,000,000 people worldwide
7 live on less than \$1 per day, and another
8 1,600,000,000 people struggle to survive on less
9 than \$2 per day, according to the World Bank.

10 (2) At the United Nations Millennium Summit
11 in 2000, the United States joined more than 180
12 other countries in committing to work toward goals
13 to improve life for the world’s poorest people by
14 2015.

15 (3) The year 2007 marks the mid-point to the
16 Millennium Development Goals deadline of 2015.

17 (4) The United Nations Millennium Develop-
18 ment Goals include the goal of reducing by one-half
19 the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990
20 and 2015, that live on less than \$1 per day, cutting
21 in half the proportion of people suffering from hun-
22 ger and unable to access safe drinking water and
23 sanitation, reducing child mortality by two-thirds,
24 ensuring basic education for all children, and revers-
25 ing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, while sus-

1 taining the environment upon which human life de-
2 pends.

3 (5) On March 22, 2002, President George W.
4 Bush stated: “We fight against poverty because hope
5 is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty be-
6 cause opportunity is a fundamental right to human
7 dignity. We fight against poverty because faith re-
8 quires it and conscience demands it. We fight
9 against poverty with a growing conviction that major
10 progress is within our reach.”.

11 (6) The 2002 National Security Strategy of the
12 United States notes: “[A] world where some live in
13 comfort and plenty, while half of the human race
14 lives on less than \$2 per day, is neither just nor sta-
15 ble. Including all of the world’s poor in an expanding
16 circle of development and opportunity is a moral im-
17 perative and one of the top priorities of U.S. inter-
18 national policy.”.

19 (7) The 2006 National Security Strategy of the
20 United States notes: “America’s national interests
21 and moral values drive us in the same direction: to
22 assist the world’s poor citizens and least developed
23 nations and help integrate them into the global econ-
24 omy.”.

1 (8) The bipartisan Final Report of the National
2 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United
3 States recommends: “A comprehensive United
4 States strategy to counter terrorism should include
5 economic policies that encourage development, more
6 open societies, and opportunities for people to im-
7 prove the lives of their families and enhance pros-
8 pects for their children.”.

9 (9) At the summit of the Group of Eight (G-
10 8) nations in July 2005, leaders from all eight par-
11 ticipating countries committed to increase aid to Af-
12 rica from the current \$25,000,000,000 annually to
13 \$50,000,000,000 by 2010, and to cancel 100 percent
14 of the debt obligations owed to the World Bank, Af-
15 rican Development Bank, and International Mone-
16 tary Fund by 18 of the world’s poorest nations.

17 (10) At the United Nations World Summit in
18 September 2005, the United States joined more
19 than 180 other governments in reiterating their
20 commitment to achieve the United Nations Millen-
21 nium Development Goals by 2015.

22 (11) The United States has recognized the need
23 for increased financial and technical assistance to
24 countries burdened by extreme poverty, as well as
25 the need for strengthened economic and trade oppor-

1 tunities for those countries, through significant ini-
2 tiatives in recent years, including the Millennium
3 Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), the
4 United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tu-
5 berculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C.
6 7601 et seq.), the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
7 Initiative, and trade preference programs for devel-
8 oping countries, such as the African Growth and Op-
9 portunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

10 (12) In January 2006, United States Secretary
11 of State Condoleezza Rice initiated a restructuring
12 of the United States foreign assistance program, in-
13 cluding the creation of a Director of Foreign Assist-
14 ance, who maintains authority over Department of
15 State and United States Agency for International
16 Development (USAID) foreign assistance funding
17 and programs.

18 (13) In January 2007, the Department of
19 State's Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance
20 added poverty reduction as an explicit, central com-
21 ponent of the overall goal of United States foreign
22 assistance. The official goal of United States foreign
23 assistance is: "To help build and sustain democratic,
24 well-governed states that respond to the needs of

1 their people, reduce widespread poverty and conduct
2 themselves responsibly in the international system.”.

3 (14) Economic growth and poverty reduction
4 are more successful in countries that invest in the
5 people, rule justly, and promote economic freedom.
6 These principles have become the core of several de-
7 velopment programs of the United States Govern-
8 ment, such as the Millennium Challenge Account.

9 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

10 It is the policy of the United States to promote the
11 reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme
12 global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium De-
13 velopment Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of
14 people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less
15 than \$1 per day.

16 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE**
17 **STRATEGY.**

18 (a) STRATEGY.—The President, acting through the
19 Secretary of State, and in consultation with the heads of
20 other appropriate departments and agencies of the United
21 States Government, international organizations, inter-
22 national financial institutions, the governments of devel-
23 oping and developed countries, United States and inter-
24 national nongovernmental organizations, civil society orga-
25 nizations, and other appropriate entities, shall develop and

1 implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United
2 States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction
3 of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global pov-
4 erty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development
5 Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people
6 worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than
7 \$1 per day.

8 (b) CONTENT.—The strategy required by subsection
9 (a) shall include specific and measurable goals, efforts to
10 be undertaken, benchmarks, and timetables to achieve the
11 objectives described in subsection (a).

12 (c) COMPONENTS.—The strategy required by sub-
13 section (a) should include the following components:

14 (1) Continued investment or involvement in ex-
15 isting United States initiatives related to inter-
16 national poverty reduction, such as the United
17 States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis,
18 and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.),
19 the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C.
20 7701 et seq.), and trade preference programs for de-
21 veloping countries, such as the African Growth and
22 Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

23 (2) Improving the effectiveness of development
24 assistance and making available additional overall
25 United States assistance levels as appropriate.

1 (3) Enhancing and expanding debt relief as ap-
2 propriate.

3 (4) Leveraging United States trade policy
4 where possible to enhance economic development
5 prospects for developing countries.

6 (5) Coordinating efforts and working in co-
7 operation with developed and developing countries,
8 international organizations, and international finan-
9 cial institutions.

10 (6) Mobilizing and leveraging the participation
11 of businesses, United States and international non-
12 governmental organizations, civil society, and public-
13 private partnerships.

14 (7) Coordinating the goal of poverty reduction
15 with other development goals, such as combating the
16 spread of preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS,
17 tuberculosis, and malaria, increasing access to pota-
18 ble water and basic sanitation, reducing hunger and
19 malnutrition, and improving access to and quality of
20 education at all levels regardless of gender.

21 (8) Integrating principles of sustainable devel-
22 opment and entrepreneurship into policies and pro-
23 grams.

24 (d) REPORTS.—

25 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 President, acting through the Secretary of
4 State, shall submit to the appropriate congress-
5 sional committees a report on the strategy re-
6 quired under subsection (a).

7 (B) CONTENT.—The report required under
8 subparagraph (A) shall include the following
9 elements:

10 (i) A description of the strategy re-
11 quired under subsection (a).

12 (ii) An evaluation, to the extent pos-
13 sible, both proportionate and absolute, of
14 the contributions provided by the United
15 States and other national and international
16 actors in achieving the Millennium Devel-
17 opment Goal of reducing by one-half the
18 proportion of people worldwide, between
19 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1
20 per day.

21 (iii) An assessment of the overall
22 progress toward achieving the Millennium
23 Development Goal of reducing by one-half
24 the proportion of people worldwide, be-

1 tween 1990 and 2015, who live on less
2 than \$1 per day.

3 (2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than
4 December 31, 2012, and December 31, 2015, the
5 President shall submit to the appropriate congres-
6 sional committees reports on the status of the imple-
7 mentation of the strategy, progress made in achiev-
8 ing the global poverty reduction objectives described
9 in subsection (a), and any changes to the strategy
10 since the date of the submission of the last report.

11 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
17 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
18 Senate; and

19 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
20 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
21 of Representatives.

22 (2) EXTREME GLOBAL POVERTY.—The term
23 “extreme global poverty” refers to the conditions in
24 which individuals live on less than \$1 per day, ad-

1 justed for purchasing power parity in 1993 United
2 States dollars, according to World Bank statistics.

3 (3) GLOBAL POVERTY.—The term “global pov-
4 erty” refers to the conditions in which individuals
5 live on less than \$2 per day, adjusted for purchasing
6 power parity in 1993 United States dollars, accord-
7 ing to World Bank statistics.

8 (4) MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.—The
9 term “Millennium Development Goals” means the
10 goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Dec-
11 laration, General Assembly Resolution 55/2 (2000).

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