

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 87

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Global Marshall Plan holds the potential to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity through poverty reduction in the United States and abroad.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. MOORE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Global Marshall Plan holds the potential to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity through poverty reduction in the United States and abroad.

Whereas after World War II, the United States established a program to provide for the reconstruction of Europe, named after General George C. Marshall and commonly referred to as the “Marshall Plan”;

Whereas by providing assistance to Europe through the Marshall Plan, the United States recognized the direct link between economic growth and political stability;

Whereas in 1948, United States financial support of the Marshall Plan represented a generous 13 percent of the Federal budget;

Whereas the Marshall Plan made possible new measures of international cooperation by promoting European economic integration which has enhanced the security, freedom, and prosperity of the United States and the world;

Whereas the United States established foreign assistance programs, as prescribed by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, with a goal of the “encouragement and sustained support of the people of developing countries in their efforts to acquire the knowledge and resources essential to development and to build the economic, political, and social institutions which will improve the quality of their lives”;

Whereas in announcing the Millennium Challenge Account on March 15, 2002, President George W. Bush stated “The advance of development is a central commitment of American foreign policy. As a nation founded on the dignity and value of every life, America’s heart breaks because of the suffering and senseless death we see in our world. We work for prosperity and opportunity because they’re right. It’s the right thing to do.”;

Whereas the World Bank reports that about eleven percent of the world’s population, 767,000,000 people, lives in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day;

Whereas the United States has one of the highest levels of poverty among industrialized countries;

Whereas the United States should also work toward improving the life of its own poorest population, as 13.5 percent live below the Federal poverty level;

Whereas there are more than 43,000,000 persons living on incomes less than the Federal Poverty Level, including more than 10,000,000 African-American persons, more than 2,000,000 Asian persons, more than 12,000,000 Hispanic persons, and more than 14,500,000 children;

Whereas at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the United States joined more than 180 countries in committing to work toward the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to improve life for the world's poorest people by 2015;

Whereas the United States joined more than 180 countries in committing to work toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change by 2030;

Whereas empowering people in the United States and abroad to support themselves will provide a solid foundation for global economic recovery;

Whereas the economic gap between the rich and the poor is even greater today than it was following World War II, when the United States Congress deemed the Marshall Plan essential to the security of the United States;

Whereas reducing poverty may assist in warding off harsh conditions that extremists may exploit to rally support for political violence;

Whereas United States citizens and nongovernmental organizations have proposed a new Global Marshall Plan, including—

- (1) providing increased funding to eliminate poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate education, and health care domestically and globally in addition to restoring the global environment;

(2) revising existing trade and other agreements in which the United States is currently involved so that such agreements favor improving the lives of the poor around the world, and approaching future agreements with like intent; and

(3) providing training to children and adults worldwide in techniques of nonviolent communication, diversity, environmental sustainability, family and parental support, stress reduction, emergency health techniques, diet and exercise, and caring for others who are in need of help; and

Whereas a Global Marshall Plan, embracing a strategy of generosity, would reaffirm the United States commitment to ending global and United States poverty: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the elimination of poverty and hunger
4 should remain key foreign and domestic policy goals
5 for the United States;

6 (2) a Global Marshall Plan holds the potential
7 to transform development assistance in a manner
8 that would significantly reduce poverty; and

9 (3) the President should implement a Global
10 Marshall Plan to increase United States assistance
11 towards the elimination of poverty.

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