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S. RES. 163

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the April 25, 2015, earthquake in Nepal.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2015

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the April 25, 2015, earthquake in Nepal.

Whereas, on April 25, 2015, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale and the aftershocks of the earthquake devastated Kathmandu, Nepal and the surrounding areas, killing thousands, injuring thousands more people, and leaving many thousands of people homeless;

Whereas the earthquake also resulted in the loss of life and destruction of property in India, Bangladesh, and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China;

Whereas United States citizens were also killed in the wide-scale destruction caused by the earthquake;

Whereas Nepal, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, has an estimated 25 percent of the population living on less than \$1.25 a day, has an estimated 46 percent unemployment rate with a majority of the population engaged in subsistence agriculture, and has one of the slowest economic growth rates in the region;

Whereas years of civil conflict in Nepal led to a massive influx of people into urban areas despite the absence of appropriate facilities, roads, housing, and infrastructure to support the people;

Whereas, since the end of hostilities, political gridlock among the leadership of Nepal to finalize a constitution has stymied growth and development;

Whereas the loss of infrastructure will further inhibit economic growth in the impoverished country of Nepal;

Whereas the United States Government has worked with the Government of Nepal on disaster risk reduction and earthquake preparedness for years, which certainly saved many lives and accelerated the ability of the Government and people of Nepal to respond to disasters and earthquakes;

Whereas the United States Government and the international community are mounting a large-scale response and recovery effort; and

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development is leading the response of the United States by providing a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), funding, and Urban Search and Rescue experts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) expresses profound sympathy to, and un-
2 wavering support for, the people of Nepal, India,
3 Bangladesh, and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of
4 China, who have always shown resilience and now
5 face catastrophic conditions in the aftermath of the
6 April 25, 2015, earthquake, and sympathy for the
7 families of the citizens of the United States who per-
8 ished in the disaster;

9 (2) applauds the rapid and concerted mobiliza-
10 tion by President Barack Obama to provide imme-
11 diate emergency humanitarian assistance to Nepal,
12 and the hard work and dedication of the people at
13 the Department of State, the United States Agency
14 for International Development, and the Department
15 of Defense in quickly marshaling United States Gov-
16 ernment resources to address both the short- and
17 long-term needs in Nepal;

18 (3) urges that all appropriate efforts be made
19 to secure the safety of orphans in Nepal;

20 (4) urges that all appropriate efforts be made
21 to sustain recovery assistance to Nepal beyond the
22 immediate humanitarian crisis to support the people
23 of Nepal with appropriate humanitarian, develop-
24 mental, and infrastructure assistance needed to
25 overcome the effects of the earthquake;

1 (5) expresses appreciation for the ongoing and
2 renewed commitment of the international community
3 to the recovery and development of Nepal;

4 (6) urges all countries to commit to assisting
5 the people of Nepal with their long-term needs;

6 (7) calls on the Government of Nepal to take all
7 necessary actions to enable a faster and more sus-
8 tainable recovery; and

9 (8) expresses support for the United States
10 Embassy team in Kathmandu, DART members,
11 other Federal agencies, and the non governmental
12 organization community in the United States, who
13 are valiantly working to assist thousands of people
14 in Nepal under extremely adverse conditions.

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