

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5006

To require the President to call a White House Conference on Haiti.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATSON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. CAO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the President to call a White House Conference on Haiti.

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

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “White House Con-  
5        ference on Haiti Act of 2010”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Haiti is the poorest country in the Western  
2 Hemisphere.

3           (2) On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude  
4 earthquake struck the country of Haiti.

5           (3) The earthquake caused massive devastation  
6 across Haiti, destroying government buildings, hos-  
7 pitals, schools, and vital aid offices including the  
8 headquarters of the United Nations mission to  
9 Haiti.

10          (4) An estimated 3,000,000 people have been  
11 directly affected by the disaster in Haiti, nearly one-  
12 third of the country's population, who are currently  
13 at risk of long-term displacement and vulnerability.

14          (5) Prior to the earthquake, Haiti was still in  
15 the process of recovering from a recent series of hur-  
16 ricanes and tropical storms, previous natural disas-  
17 ters, and food shortages and rising commodity  
18 prices, but was showing encouraging signs of im-  
19 provement.

20          (6) President Obama vowed the “unwavering  
21 support” of the United States and pledged a “swift,  
22 coordinated and aggressive effort to save lives and  
23 support the recovery in Haiti”.

1           (7) Prior to the earthquake, there were approxi-  
2           mately 10,000 nongovernmental organizations oper-  
3           ating in Haiti.

4           (8) At least 3,000,000 Haitians live abroad.

5           (9) Haitians abroad provide significant capital  
6           to local economies in Haiti through travel and remit-  
7           tances and have the potential to advance reconstruc-  
8           tion efforts by providing needed skills and resources.

9           (10) The response to the tragedy from the glob-  
10          al community has been overwhelmingly positive.

11          (11) Individuals, businesses, and philanthropic  
12          organizations across the United States and through-  
13          out the international community have responded in  
14          support of Haiti during this time of crisis.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE.**

16          (a) **AUTHORITY TO CALL CONFERENCE.**—Not later  
17          than December 31, 2010, the President shall call the  
18          White House Conference on Haiti (in this Act referred to  
19          as the “Conference”) to be convened not later than 6  
20          months after the selection of the Policy Committee estab-  
21          lished in section 4, in order to make fundamental policy  
22          recommendations on ways to assist in the recovery and  
23          long-term development of Haiti.

24          (b) **PLANNING AND DIRECTION.**—The Secretary of  
25          State and the Secretary of Homeland Security (in this Act

1 referred to as the “Co-chairs”) shall plan, conduct, and  
2 convene the Conference, in consultation with other appro-  
3 priate Cabinet members.

4 (c) PURPOSES OF CONFERENCE.—The purposes of  
5 the Conference are to—

6 (1) bring attention to the ongoing challenges  
7 facing Haiti and the progress made in its recovery  
8 from the January 12, 2010, earthquake;

9 (2) promote collaboration and coordination be-  
10 tween the United States Government, foreign gov-  
11 ernments, the private sector, international non-  
12 governmental organizations, and the Haitian dias-  
13 pora;

14 (3) identify gaps or duplication in the provision  
15 of humanitarian assistance;

16 (4) highlight innovative ideas for sustainable re-  
17 building and redevelopment in Haiti;

18 (5) share best practices in development assist-  
19 ance in Haiti and in nations facing similar chal-  
20 lenges;

21 (6) develop opportunities for greater involve-  
22 ment in Haiti’s recovery by the Haitian diaspora  
23 and the private sector;

24 (7) review the structure, scope, and effective-  
25 ness of existing policies and initiatives by public and

1 private entities regarding development assistance,  
2 stability, and long-term economic growth in Haiti;  
3 and

4 (8) identify possible changes to United States  
5 immigration, trade, and foreign aid policies that may  
6 assist in a more rapid, sustainable recovery.

7 **SEC. 4. POLICY COMMITTEE; RELATED COMMITTEES.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than June 30,  
9 2010, there is established a Policy Committee comprising  
10 of 17 members to be selected as follows:

11 (1) PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES.—Nine mem-  
12 bers shall be selected by the President and shall in-  
13 clude—

14 (A) 3 members who are officers or employ-  
15 ees of the United States; and

16 (B) 6 members with experience in address-  
17 ing the needs of disaster-stricken and devel-  
18 oping countries.

19 (2) HOUSE APPOINTEES.—

20 (A) SELECTION BY SPEAKER.—Two mem-  
21 bers shall be selected by the Speaker of the  
22 House of Representatives after consultation  
23 with the chairperson of the Committee on For-  
24 eign Affairs, the chairperson of the Committee  
25 on Homeland Security, the chairperson of the

1 Committee on the Judiciary, the chairperson of  
2 the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and  
3 the chairperson of the Committee on Financial  
4 Services, of the House of Representatives.

5 (B) SELECTION BY MINORITY LEADER.—

6 Two members shall be selected by the minority  
7 leader of the House of Representatives, after  
8 consultation with the ranking minority members  
9 of such committees.

10 (3) SENATE APPOINTEES.—

11 (A) SELECTION BY MAJORITY LEADER.—

12 Two members shall be selected by the majority  
13 leader of the Senate, after consultation with  
14 members of the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
15 tions, the Committee on Homeland Security  
16 and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on  
17 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and  
18 the Committee on Finance, of the Senate.

19 (B) SELECTION BY MINORITY LEADER.—

20 Two members shall be selected by the minority  
21 leader of the Senate, after consultation with  
22 members of such committees.

23 (b) VOTING; CHAIRPERSON.—

24 (1) VOTING.—The Policy Committee shall act  
25 by the vote of a majority of the members present.

1 A quorum of Committee members shall not be re-  
2 quired to conduct Committee business.

3 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Under Secretary of  
4 State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs shall  
5 serve as the chairperson of the Policy Committee.  
6 The chairperson may vote only to break a tie vote  
7 of the other members of the Policy Committee.

8 (c) DUTIES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE.—The Pol-  
9 icy Committee shall initially meet at the call of the Co-  
10 chairs, not later than 30 days after the last member is  
11 selected under subsection (a). Subsequent meetings of the  
12 Policy Committee shall be held at the call of the chair-  
13 person. Through meetings, hearings, and working ses-  
14 sions, the Policy Committee shall—

15 (1) make recommendations to the Co-chairs to  
16 facilitate the timely convening of the Conference;

17 (2) submit to the Co-chairs a proposed agenda  
18 for the Conference not later than 90 days after the  
19 first meeting of the Policy Committee;

20 (3) make recommendations for the delegates of  
21 the Conference;

22 (4) establish the number of delegates to be se-  
23 lected under section 5; and

1           (5) establish an executive committee consisting  
2           of 3 members of the Policy Committee to work with  
3           delegates of the Conference.

4 **SEC. 5. CONFERENCE DELEGATES.**

5           To carry out the purposes of the Conference, the Co-  
6 chairs shall bring together delegates representative of the  
7 spectrum of thought in the fields of development and hu-  
8 manitarian assistance, infrastructure development, trade,  
9 democratic strengthening, and Haitian culture and his-  
10 tory, without regard to political affiliation or past partisan  
11 activity, who shall include—

12           (1) representatives of the United States and  
13           international governments;

14           (2) members of the Haitian diaspora;

15           (3) representatives of international nongovern-  
16           mental organizations; and

17           (4) individuals from private sector entities.

18 **SEC. 6. CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION.**

19           (a) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering this section,  
20 the Co-chairs shall—

21           (1) provide written notice to all members of the  
22           Policy Committee of each meeting, hearing, or work-  
23           ing session of such Committee not later than 48  
24           hours before the occurrence of such meeting, hear-  
25           ing, or working session;



1           (2) request the cooperation and assistance of  
2 the heads of such other Federal departments and  
3 agencies as may be appropriate, including the detail-  
4 ing of personnel;

5           (3) make available for public comment a pro-  
6 posed agenda prepared by the Policy Committee,  
7 which will reflect to the greatest extent possible the  
8 major issues facing assistance to Haiti with the pur-  
9 poses of the Conference set forth in section 3(c);

10          (4) prepare and make available background ma-  
11 terials that the Co-chairs deem necessary for the use  
12 of delegates to the Conference; and

13          (5) employ such additional personnel as may be  
14 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act  
15 without regard to provisions of title 5, United States  
16 Code, governing appointments in the competitive  
17 service, and without regard to chapter 51 and sub-  
18 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to  
19 classification and General Schedule pay rates.

20          (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Co-chairs’s respon-  
21 sibilities and functions under this section, the Co-chairs  
22 shall ensure that—

23               (1) the proposed agenda prepared under sub-  
24 section (a)(3) is published in the Federal Register

1 not later than 30 days after such agenda is approved  
2 by the Policy Committee;

3 (2) the personnel employed under subsection  
4 (a)(5) are fairly balanced in terms of points of views  
5 represented and are appointed without regard to po-  
6 litical affiliation or previous partisan activities;

7 (3) the recommendations of the Conference are  
8 not inappropriately influenced by any public official  
9 or by any special interest, but instead are the result  
10 of the independent and collective judgment of the  
11 delegates of the Conference; and

12 (4) before the Conference is convened—

13 (A) current and adequate statistical data  
14 and other information on health and social out-  
15 comes in Haiti, and

16 (B) such information as may be necessary  
17 to evaluate programs and policies relating to  
18 Haiti,

19 which the Co-chairs may obtain by making grants to  
20 or entering into an agreement with, public agencies  
21 or nonprofit organizations, are readily available in  
22 advance of the Conference to the delegates.

23 (c) GIFTS.—The Co-chairs may accept, on behalf of  
24 the United States, gifts (in cash or in kind, including vol-  
25 untary and uncompensated services), which shall be avail-

1 able to carry out this Act. Gifts of cash shall be available  
2 in addition to amounts appropriated to carry out this title.  
3 Gifts may be earmarked by the donor or the executive  
4 committee for a specific purpose.

5 (d) RECORDS.—The Co-chairs shall maintain records  
6 regarding—

7 (1) the sources, amounts, and uses of gifts ac-  
8 cepted under subsection (c); and

9 (2) the identity of each person receiving assist-  
10 ance to carry out this Act, and the amount of such  
11 assistance received by each such person.

12 **SEC. 7. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE.**

13 (a) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 100 days  
14 after the Conference adjourns, the Policy Committee shall  
15 prepare a preliminary report on the Conference which  
16 shall be published in the Federal Register and submitted  
17 to Members of Congress and relevant administration offi-  
18 cials. The Policy Committee shall request that Members  
19 of Congress and administration officials submit to the Pol-  
20 icy Committee, not later than 45 days after receiving such  
21 report, their views and findings on such report.

22 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after  
23 the date on which the Conference adjourns, the Policy  
24 Committee shall—

1           (1) prepare a final report of the Conference  
2           which shall include a compilation of the views and  
3           findings of the Members of Congress and adminis-  
4           tration officials received under subsection (a); and

5           (2) publish in the Federal Register, and trans-  
6           mit to the President and to Congress, the rec-  
7           ommendations for the administrative action and the  
8           legislation necessary to implement the recommenda-  
9           tions contained in such report.

10 **SEC. 8. STATUS REPORTS.**

11           (a) INITIAL STATUS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
12 after the date on which the Conference adjourns, the  
13 Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public  
14 Affairs shall—

15           (1) prepare a status report documenting the im-  
16           plementation of the recommendations contained in  
17           the final report described in section 7(b)(1); and

18           (2) publish in the Federal Register, and trans-  
19           mit to the President and to Congress, such status  
20           report.

21           (b) SUBSEQUENT STATUS REPORTS.—Not later than  
22 5 years after the date on which the Conference adjourns,  
23 and every 5 years thereafter until all recommendations in  
24 the final report described in section 7(b)(1) are achieved,  
25 the Comptroller General shall—

1           (1) prepare a status report documenting the im-  
2           plementation of the recommendations contained in  
3           such final report; and

4           (2) publish in the Federal Register, and trans-  
5           mit to the President and to Congress, such status  
6           report.

7 **SEC. 9. COMMITTEE HEARINGS.**

8           (a) HEARINGS ON REPORTS.—The Committee on  
9           Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
10          Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall each  
11          hold hearings on the recommendations and status reports  
12          received by Congress under sections 7(b)(2), 8(a)(2), and  
13          8(b)(2).

14          (b) HEARINGS.—The Committee on Foreign Affairs  
15          of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16          Foreign Relations of the Senate shall each hold annual  
17          hearings on recovery and long-term development of Haiti.

18          (c) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—Sub-  
19          sections (a) and (b) are enacted—

20                 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
21                 the House of Representatives and Senate, and, as  
22                 such, they shall be considered as part of the rules  
23                 of the House or Senate (as the case may be), and  
24                 such rules shall supersede any other rule of the

1 House or Senate only to the extent that rule is in-  
2 consistent therewith; and

3 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional  
4 right of either House to change such rules (so far  
5 as relating to the procedure in such House) at any  
6 time, in the same manner, and to the same extent  
7 as in the case of any other rule of the House or Sen-  
8 ate.

9 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
12 appropriated to carry out this Act—

13 (A) such sums as may be necessary for the  
14 first fiscal year in which the Policy Committee  
15 plans the Conference and for the following fis-  
16 cal year; and

17 (B) such sums as may be necessary for the  
18 fiscal year in which the Conference is held.

19 (2) LIMITATION.—Any new spending authority  
20 or new authority to enter into contracts under this  
21 Act, and under which the United States is obligated  
22 to make outlays, shall be effective only to the extent,  
23 and in such amounts, as are provided in advance in  
24 appropriations Acts.

25 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
2           graph (3), funds appropriated to carry out this Act  
3           and funds received as gifts under section 6(c) shall  
4           remain available for obligation or expenditure until  
5           the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the  
6           date the Conference adjourns.

7           (2) UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Except as provided  
8           in paragraph (3), any such funds neither obligated  
9           nor expended before the expiration of the 1-year pe-  
10          riod beginning on the date the Conference adjourns  
11          shall be returned to the United States Treasury.

12          (3) CONFERENCE NOT CONVENED.—If the Con-  
13          ference is not convened before December 31, 2010,  
14          a trust fund shall be established and such funds  
15          shall be deposited in the trust fund and shall only  
16          be available for a future Conference on Haiti.

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