

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 5

Supporting the goals and ideals of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Whereas, in recognition of the African Diaspora, on December 23, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/237, designating the decade commencing on January 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2024, as the “International Decade for People of African Descent”, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”;

Whereas the African Diaspora is expansive, spanning across the globe from the Americas and the Caribbean to Asia and Europe, with persons of African descent having had a historical presence and currently residing on every continent;

Whereas the historical bonds and shared experiences that tie the African continent with the world must be recalled;

Whereas the global contributions of people of African descent must be recognized as a means of preserving that heritage;

Whereas the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, done at Helsinki August 1, 1975, states that “participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion”;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of American States, and other international organizations have undertaken efforts to address the human rights situation of people of African descent;

Whereas, on December 10, 2014, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power stated, “The United States comes to the International Decade for People of African Descent with a full and robust commitment to ensuring the rights of persons of African descent, and to combating racism and discrimination against them.”; and

Whereas a central goal of the International Decade for People of African Descent is to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights for people of African descent; the participation and integration of people of African descent in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of society; and the promotion of greater knowledge of, and respect for, the

diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of the “Inter-
4 national Decade for People of African Descent”;

5 (2) encourages the recognition and celebration
6 of the collective history and achievements made by
7 people of African descent;

8 (3) reaffirms the importance of inclusion and
9 the full and equal participation of people of African
10 descent around the world in all aspects of political,
11 economic, social, and cultural life;

12 (4) recognizes bilateral and multilateral efforts
13 to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule
14 of law, including those efforts that target the eradi-
15 cation of poverty, hunger, and inequality; and

16 (5) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to
17 address racism, discrimination, and intolerance in
18 the United States and around the globe.

○