

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 609

Recognizing April 4, 2024, as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and reaffirming the leadership of the United States in eliminating landmines and unexploded ordnance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2024

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Recognizing April 4, 2024, as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and reaffirming the leadership of the United States in eliminating landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Whereas landmines and unexploded ordnance threaten the safety, health, and lives of civilian populations and create humanitarian and development challenges that have serious and lasting social, economic, and security consequences for effected populations;

Whereas demining and clearance of unexploded ordnance enables displaced people to return to their homes and has a direct impact on development outcomes such as food security, school attendance, and economic development;

Whereas people in at least 60 countries and other areas are at risk from mines and unexploded ordnance in their communities;

Whereas more than 135,000 deaths and injuries resulting from anti-personnel or anti-vehicle mines and other explosive remnants of war have been recorded in the Landmine Monitor database since 2001, and thousands more individuals around the world are killed and injured by such mines and remnants each year;

Whereas, over the past 3 decades, the United States has been the global leader in supporting efforts to clear mine-contaminated areas around the world, dedicating more than \$4,600,000,000 for demining and related programs in 120 countries and territories since 1993;

Whereas, since 1989, the United States Agency for International Development has allocated more than \$337,000,000 through the Leahy War Victims Fund in more than 50 countries to provide artificial limbs, wheelchairs, rehabilitation, vocational training, and other assistance to survivors of accidents caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance;

Whereas the United States Government expressed its support for the Maputo +15 declaration of June 27, 2014, which established the goal “to destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines and clear all mined areas as soon as possible”;

Whereas there are 164 States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, done at the Oslo Landmine Conference, September 18, 1997;

Whereas the recent use of landmines, cluster bombs, and other munitions, particularly in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Burma, and Ukraine, has created new humanitarian priorities and funding requirements for demining, while legacy mine contamination remains an urgent challenge impacting millions of people globally;

Whereas Russia's aggression in Ukraine has resulted in an estimated one third of the territory being contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance, creating a massive need for clearance operations as a prerequisite for Ukraine's recovery;

Whereas these needs in Ukraine do not diminish the similarly urgent need for humanitarian demining in other parts of the world;

Whereas additional resources for demining will be needed to achieve a world free of the threat of landmines and other explosive hazards; and

Whereas, on December 8, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly declared that April 4th of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms the commitment of the United
3 States to support international humanitarian efforts
4 to eliminate landmines and unexploded ordnance;

5 (2) recognizes those individuals in numerous
6 countries who, at great risk to their personal safety,
7 work to locate and remove anti-personnel landmines
8 and unexploded ordnance;

1 (3) affirms its support for the goal, as ex-
2 pressed by the Maputo +15 declaration of June 27,
3 2014, to intensify efforts to clear mined areas to the
4 fullest extent possible by 2025;

5 (4) calls upon the United States Government—

6 (A) to continue providing the funding nec-
7 essary to support international humanitarian
8 demining activities;

9 (B) to maintain its international leadership
10 role in seeking to rid the world of areas con-
11 taminated by landmines and unexploded ord-
12 nance; and

13 (C) to rededicate itself to addressing legacy
14 mine contamination as an urgent humanitarian
15 priority; and

16 (5) reaffirms the goals of the International Day
17 for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

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