

bilateral relations between governments attempting to build positive ties with Taiwan, a beacon of democracy in the Indo-Pacific and a key United States partner; and

(6) supports Taiwan in its struggle against CCP malign influence, coercion, and aggression, which threatens not only the Taiwanese people and countries in the Indo-Pacific, but also any nation around the world that enacts policies or positions that are inconsistent with those of the CCP.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—CONDEMNING THE OCTOBER 25, 2021, MILITARY COUP IN SUDAN AND STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON RES. 20

Whereas the people of the Republic of Sudan suffered for three decades under the despotism of President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, whose government was responsible for the suppression of civil liberties, grand corruption, support for international terrorism, and the commission of crimes against humanity and genocide;

Whereas, throughout 2019, a coalition of Sudanese civic groups, including professional associations, labor unions, community groups, democracy activists, and opposition parties, led a mass protest movement to demand the end of Bashir's reign and the transition to democracy in Sudan;

Whereas, on April 11, 2019, Sudanese military officers deposed Bashir, and, following continued protests, agreed to form a transitional government in partnership with a civilian pro-democracy coalition on July 17, 2019;

Whereas, on June 3, 2019, Sudanese forces led by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), largely comprised of Janjaweed militia involved in genocidal campaigns across Darfur for decades, opened fire on protesters at an army command headquarters in Khartoum, killing at least 127 people, at least 40 of whom were found in the Nile River;

Whereas the military and civilian elements agreed to a 39-month transition to democracy, with a Civilian-Led Transitional Government (CLTG) comprised of a predominantly civilian cabinet led by Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, a Sovereign Council, an executive body with civilian and military members chaired for the first half of the transitional period by Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and a Transitional Legislative Council, which has yet to be formed;

Whereas the United States and the international community supported Sudan's transition to democracy, with the United States identifying more than \$1,000,000,000 in foreign assistance, and the multilateral Friends of Sudan group pledging \$1,800,000,000 from roughly 50 countries and international organizations;

Whereas the CLTG made progress in human rights reforms, including guaranteeing the people of Sudan freedom of religion and gender equality under the transitional constitution, banning female genital mutilation, and decriminalizing apostasy;

Whereas, in August 2021, when the Sudanese Cabinet ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the CLTG made progress towards ending impunity for abusers of human rights, stating its intention to deliver Omar al-Bashir to the ICC to stand trial for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, and formed ci-

vilian committees to investigate corruption and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Bashir regime;

Whereas the transitional government negotiated a peace agreement with several rebel groups, a step towards ending decades of conflict in the regions of Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, which killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and left more than 3,000,000 people displaced within Sudan;

Whereas Sudan continues to face a serious humanitarian situation, with an estimated 13,400,000 people, or 29 percent of the population, in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021;

Whereas Sudan faces a severe economic crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the price of food and consumer goods to increase significantly, while austerity measures imposed to stabilize the economy resulted in the reduction or elimination of subsidies for commodities including wheat and fuel;

Whereas the political tensions between the civilian and military elements and within factions of the civilian coalition undermined the CLTG and contributed to widespread unrest within the Sudanese population relating to a range of issues, including the economic crisis, ethnic and tribal conflict in peripheral regions, and the unsatisfactory pace of reforms;

Whereas, on September 21, 2021, some members of the military reportedly attempted a coup d'état against the transitional government, which failed to depose the government but succeeded in precipitating the most serious political crisis of the transition period;

Whereas, on October 21, 2021, hundreds of thousands of people across Sudan demonstrated in support of democratic civilian rule, to counter a smaller protest days prior demanding the military take complete control of the government;

Whereas, on October 25, 2021, Lieutenant General Burhan, with the support of General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as "Hemedti", seized control of the government, deployed the military to the streets of Khartoum and Omdurman, and arrested and detained Prime Minister Hamdok and other civilian officials;

Whereas the African Union Peace and Security Council convened on October 27, 2021, strongly condemned the coup, reaffirmed the mandate of the CLTG, and subsequently suspended Sudan from the regional body "with immediate effect. . . until the effective restoration" of the CLTG;

Whereas the actions of Lieutenant General Burhan and the Sudanese military violate Sudan's Constitutional Charter and threaten to plunge Sudan into isolation and instability;

Whereas the United States Government publicly condemned the coup, suspended its foreign assistance to Sudan, and urged Lieutenant General Burhan and his accomplices to restore the CLTG and return Sudan to the path to democracy; and

Whereas, the Troika (the United States, United Kingdom, Norway), the European Union, and Switzerland "continue to recognize the Prime Minister and his cabinet as the constitutional leaders of the transitional government" and "confirm once again the international calls for the immediate return to the roadmap for democratic transition of Sudan": Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) condemns the October 25, 2021, coup in Sudan;

(2) stands with the people of Sudan in their democratic aspirations;

(3) recognizes the Prime Minister and his cabinet as the constitutional leaders of Sudan's transitional government;

(4) calls for Sudan's military junta to—

(A) immediately release all civilian government officials, civil society members, and other individuals detained in connection with the coup;

(B) return to constitutional rule under the transitional constitution as the starting point for negotiations with civilians toward full civilian rule;

(C) lift the state of emergency, including complete restoration of all means of communication;

(D) remove all roadblocks and checkpoints, and order the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and RSF to stand down and comply with international recognized rules of engagement;

(E) ensure security forces respect the right to peaceful protest and hold those who used excessive force and committed other abuses accountable in a transparent, credible process;

(F) cease all attempts to change the civilian composition of the cabinet, Sovereign Council, and other government bodies; and

(G) transfer leadership of the Sovereign Council to a civilian member of the Sovereign Council in keeping with the transitional constitution;

(5) calls on the Secretary of State to—

(A) immediately identify coup leaders, their accomplices, and enablers for consideration for targeted sanctions;

(B) urge junta leaders to return immediately to the rule of law as set forth by the transitional constitution;

(C) monitor, discourage, and deter any effort by external parties to support the coup and the military junta;

(D) coordinate with—

(i) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and other Federal Government agencies to pause all non-humanitarian bilateral assistance to Sudan until restoration of the transitional constitutional order;

(ii) the Department of the Treasury to use the voice and vote of the United States in international financial institutions to suspend all actions related to non-humanitarian loans or debt relief to Sudan until restoration of the transitional constitutional order; and

(iii) the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to ensure the United Nations Security Council is seized of the matter on an ongoing basis; and

(E) work with the Troika to engage members of the international community to join these United States actions; and

(6) calls on international partners to—

(A) join United States efforts to impose targeted sanctions on the junta and other accomplices to the coup, monitor, discourage, and deter any effort by external parties to support the junta, and urge junta leaders to return to the rule of law as set forth by the transitional constitution; and

(B) suspend Sudan's participation in all regional multilateral organizations until Sudan is returned to constitutional rule under the transitional constitution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4277. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. Kaine) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and

SA 4367. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4413. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

SA 4458. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended

SA 4549. Mr. TUBERVILLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4550. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4350, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4277. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —COMMISSION ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Coronavirus Commission Act of 2021”.

SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVID-19.—The term “COVID-19” means the 2019 novel coronavirus disease.

(2) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “relevant committees of Congress”—

(A) means all committees for which information in the report or plan being provided might be relevant; and

(B) includes, at a minimum—

(i) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 03. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

There is established in the legislative branch the Commission on the Coronavirus Pandemic in the United States (referred to in this title as the “Commission”).

SEC. 04. PURPOSES.

The purposes of the Commission are to—

(1) examine and report on the facts and the causes relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, which may include investigating and reporting on—

(A) the origins of COVID-19; and

(B) the spread of COVID-19 internationally and within the United States;

(2) make a full and nonpartisan accounting of the United States’ preparedness for, and response to, the COVID-19 pandemic, to include investigating and reporting on—

(A) medical intelligence;

(B) international public health surveillance;

(C) domestic public health surveillance;

(D) communication and coordination between the Federal Government and foreign governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and international public health organizations related to public

health threats and early warning, detection, and prevention and response measures;

(E) communication and coordination related to public health threats and early warning, detection, and prevention and response measures among the Federal national security agencies, Federal public health agencies, other relevant Federal agencies, and State, Tribal, local, and territorial governments;

(F) Federal funding and support for, engagement with, and management of, international prevention, preparedness, and response efforts;

(G) Federal guidance, assistance, and requirements for State, Tribal, local, and territorial governments;

(H) Federal acquisition and financing efforts and supply chain management, including use of the authorities provided under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.), related to personal protective equipment, testing supplies, ventilators and other medical equipment or supplies, diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, or other relevant items for domestic and international use;

(I) management, allocation, and distribution of relevant resources (including resources and assets for domestic use held by United States agencies that provide foreign aid) between the Federal Government and State, Tribal, local, and territorial governments, hospitals and health care organizations, and private sector entities, including personal protective equipment, testing supplies, ventilators and other medical equipment or supplies, diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, or other relevant items;

(J) management, allocation, and distribution of personal protective equipment, testing supplies, ventilators and other medical equipment or supplies, diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, or other relevant items as aid to foreign countries;

(K) domestic and global supply chain vulnerabilities with respect to personal protective equipment, testing supplies, ventilators and other medical equipment or supplies, diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, or other relevant items;

(L) the operation of government-maintained stockpiles;

(M) scams and profiteering;

(N) misinformation and disinformation;

(O) the readiness of Federal, State, Tribal, local, and territorial public health departments and agencies and relevant regional entities;

(P) testing and contact tracing operations;

(Q) emergency management;

(R) military engagement, including the National Guard Bureau;

(S) Federal, State, Tribal, local, and territorial orders and guidance to reduce disease transmission, including travel restrictions, stay-at-home orders, in-person school and institution of higher education closures or modifications, workplace protections or closures, or business closures or modifications;

(T) Federal, State, Tribal, local, and territorial guidance, public health education, and resource provision related to masking, social distancing, hygiene, therapeutics, testing, quarantining, vaccination, or other relevant topics;

(U) scientific and technological preparedness and response, which may include—

(i) the Federal role in executing, supporting, and coordinating domestic and global research on diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines;

(ii) the efficacy and scientific integrity of the Federal authorization and approval processes for vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics; and

(iii) the use of technology to detect and prevent contagion, including privacy concerns;

(V) the preparedness and response of specific types of institutions that experienced high rates of COVID-19 infection or that are critical to national security, which may include—

(i) hospitals;

(ii) skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities;

(iii) assisted living facilities;

(iv) prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers;

(v) elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education;

(vi) food production, processing, and distribution facilities;

(vii) other congregate settings and confined or high-density workplaces; and

(viii) other critical infrastructure facilities;

(W) Federal economic relief programs, including—

(i) loan, grant, and other financial assistance;

(ii) unemployment insurance;

(iii) tax and loan deferment;

(iv) direct payments;

(v) rental and mortgage assistance, eviction moratoria, and foreclosure relief; and

(vi) fiscal relief to States, Tribes, localities, and territories;

(X) health and economic impacts on underserved communities, rural populations, racial and ethnic minority populations, older adults, and all other populations with relevant health or economic disparities, which may include—

(i) immigrant populations;

(ii) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals;

(iii) people with disabilities;

(iv) people who live on or near Indian reservations or in Alaska Native villages;

(v) residents of territories of the United States; and

(vi) veterans;

(Y) the division of authority and responsibilities between the Federal Government and State, Tribal, local, and territorial governments;

(Z) any other aspect of Federal, State, Tribal, local, and territorial government preparedness and response; and

(AA) other areas as determined relevant and appropriate by the Commission (by agreement of the chair and vice chair of the Commission); and

(3) investigate and report to the President and Congress on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve the ability of the Federal Government, State, Tribal, local, and territorial governments, and the private sector to—

(A) prevent, detect, respond to, and prepare for future epidemics and pandemics, whether naturally occurring or caused by State or non-State actors, and other public health emergencies;

(B) protect the health security of the United States; and

(C) reestablish the role of the United States as a global leader in epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

SEC. 05. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) MEMBERS.—The Commission shall be comprised of 10 members, of whom—

(1) 1 member shall be appointed by the President, who shall serve as the chair of the Commission;

(2) 1 member shall—

(A) be appointed by the leader of the Senate who represents the major political party that the President does not represent, in consultation with the leader of the House of Representatives from the same political party; and

(B) serve as the vice chair of the Commission;