

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2639

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Poverty Act
3 of 2009”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) More than one billion people worldwide live
7 on less than \$1 per day, and another 1,600,000,000
8 people struggle to survive on less than \$2 per day,
9 according to the World Bank.

10 (2) At the United Nations Millennium Summit
11 in 2000, the United States joined more than 180
12 other countries in committing to work toward the
13 United Nations Millennium Development Goals to
14 improve life for the world’s poorest people by 2015.

15 (3) The United Nations Millennium Develop-
16 ment Goals include the goal of reducing by one-half
17 the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990
18 and 2015, that live on less than \$1 per day, cutting
19 in half the proportion of people suffering from hun-
20 ger and unable to access safe drinking water and
21 sanitation, reducing child mortality by two-thirds,
22 ensuring basic education for all children, and revers-
23 ing the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, while sus-
24 taining the environment upon which human life de-
25 pends.

1 (4) On March 22, 2002, President George W.
2 Bush stated: “We fight against poverty because hope
3 is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty be-
4 cause opportunity is a fundamental right to human
5 dignity. We fight against poverty because faith re-
6 quires it and conscience demands it. We fight
7 against poverty with a growing conviction that major
8 progress is within our reach.”.

9 (5) The 2002 National Security Strategy of the
10 United States notes: “[A] world where some live in
11 comfort and plenty, while half of the human race
12 lives on less than \$2 per day, is neither just nor sta-
13 ble. Including all of the world’s poor in an expanding
14 circle of development and opportunity is a moral im-
15 perative and one of the top priorities of United
16 States international policy.”.

17 (6) The 2006 National Security Strategy of the
18 United States notes: “America’s national interests
19 and moral values drive us in the same direction: to
20 assist the world’s poor citizens and least developed
21 nations and help integrate them into the global econ-
22 omy.”.

23 (7) The bipartisan Final Report of the National
24 Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United
25 States recommends: “A comprehensive United

1 States strategy to counter terrorism should include
2 economic policies that encourage development, more
3 open societies, and opportunities for people to im-
4 prove the lives of their families and enhance pros-
5 pects for their children.”.

6 (8) At the summit of the Group of Eight (G-
7 8) nations in July 2005, leaders from all eight coun-
8 tries committed to increase aid to Africa from the
9 current \$25,000,000,000 annually to
10 \$50,000,000,000 by 2010, and to cancel 100 percent
11 of the debt obligations owed to the World Bank, Af-
12 rican Development Bank, and International Mone-
13 tary Fund by 18 of the world’s poorest nations.

14 (9) At the United Nations World Summit in
15 September 2005, the United States joined more
16 than 180 other governments in reiterating their
17 commitment to achieve the United Nations Millen-
18 nium Development Goals by 2015.

19 (10) The United States has recognized the need
20 for increased financial and technical assistance to
21 countries burdened by extreme poverty, as well as
22 the need for strengthened economic and trade oppor-
23 tunities for those countries, through significant ini-
24 tiatives in recent years, including the United States
25 Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and

1 Malaria Act of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act
2 of 2003, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initia-
3 tive, and trade preference programs for developing
4 countries, such as the African Growth and Oppor-
5 tunity Act.

6 (11) In January 2006, United States Secretary
7 of State Condoleezza Rice initiated a restructuring
8 of the United States foreign assistance program, in-
9 cluding the creation of a Director of Foreign Assist-
10 ance, who maintains authority over Department of
11 State and United States Agency for International
12 Development (USAID) foreign assistance funding
13 and programs.

14 (12) In January 2007, the Department of
15 State's Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance
16 added poverty reduction as an explicit, central com-
17 ponent of the overall goal of United States foreign
18 assistance. The official goal of United States foreign
19 assistance is: "To help build and sustain democratic,
20 well-governed states that respond to the needs of
21 their people, reduce widespread poverty and conduct
22 themselves responsibly in the international system."

23 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

24 It is the policy of the United States to promote the
25 reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme

1 global poverty, and the achievement of the United Nations
2 Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the
3 proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015,
4 who live on less than \$1 per day.

5 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE**
6 **STRATEGY.**

7 (a) STRATEGY.—The President, acting through the
8 Secretary of State, and in consultation with the heads of
9 other appropriate departments and agencies of the Gov-
10 ernment of the United States, international organizations,
11 international financial institutions, the governments of de-
12 veloping and developed countries, United States and inter-
13 national nongovernmental organizations, civil society orga-
14 nizations, and other appropriate entities, shall develop and
15 implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United
16 States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction
17 of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global pov-
18 erty, and the achievement of the United Nations Millen-
19 nium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the pro-
20 portion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who
21 live on less than \$1 per day.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required by subsection
23 (a) shall include, but not be limited to, specific and meas-
24 urable goals, efforts to be undertaken, benchmarks, and

1 timetables to achieve the objectives described in subsection
2 (a).

3 (c) COMPONENTS.—The strategy required by sub-
4 section (a) should include, but not be limited to, the fol-
5 lowing components:

6 (1) Continued investment in existing United
7 States initiatives related to international poverty re-
8 duction, such as the United States Leadership
9 Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act
10 of 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, the
11 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and
12 trade preference programs for developing countries,
13 such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

14 (2) Improving the effectiveness of development
15 assistance and making available additional overall
16 United States assistance levels as appropriate.

17 (3) Enhancing and expanding debt relief as ap-
18 propriate.

19 (4) Leveraging United States trade policy
20 where possible to enhance economic development
21 prospects for developing countries.

22 (5) Coordinating efforts and working in co-
23 operation with developed and developing countries,
24 international organizations, and international finan-
25 cial institutions.

1 (6) Mobilizing and leveraging the participation
2 of businesses, United States and international non-
3 governmental organizations, civil society, and public-
4 private partnerships.

5 (7) Coordinating the goal of poverty reduction
6 with other development goals, such as combating the
7 spread of preventable diseases such as HIV/AIDS,
8 tuberculosis, and malaria, increasing access to pota-
9 ble water and basic sanitation, reducing hunger and
10 malnutrition, and improving access to and quality of
11 education at all levels regardless of gender.

12 (8) Integrating principles of sustainable devel-
13 opment into policies and programs.

14 (d) REPORTS.—

15 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 President, acting through the Secretary of State,
18 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional com-
19 mittees a report that describes the strategy required
20 by subsection (a).

21 (2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not less than
22 once every two years after the submission of the ini-
23 tial report under paragraph (1) until and including
24 2015, the President shall transmit to the appro-
25 priate congressional committees a report on the sta-

1 tus of the implementation of the strategy, progress
2 made in achieving the global poverty reduction objec-
3 tives described in subsection (a), and any changes to
4 the strategy since the date of the submission of the
5 last report.

6 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
9 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
12 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
13 of Representatives; and

14 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
15 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
16 Senate.

17 (2) **EXTREME GLOBAL POVERTY.**—The term
18 “extreme global poverty” refers to the conditions in
19 which individuals live on less than \$1 per day, ad-
20 justed for purchasing power parity in 1993 United
21 States dollars, according to World Bank statistics.

22 (3) **GLOBAL POVERTY.**—The term “global pov-
23 erty” refers to the conditions in which individuals
24 live on less than \$2 per day, adjusted for purchasing

- 1 power parity in 1993 United States dollars, accord-
- 2 ing to World Bank statistics.

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