

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 458

Denouncing efforts by the People's Republic of China to exert malign influence in Latin America.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Denouncing efforts by the People's Republic of China to exert malign influence in Latin America.

Whereas, as of October 2023, the People's Republic of China is the main trading partner for South America, including Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, and the second largest trading partner for Central America;

Whereas 21 countries in Latin America have joined the Belt and Road Initiative, 4 countries in Latin America have free trade agreements in place with the People's Republic of China, and 7 countries in Latin America have comprehensive strategic partnership agreements with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has worked to expand the use cases of the digital yuan for the Belt and Road Initiative, even using the digital yuan to settle cross-border transactions;

Whereas trade between Latin America and the People's Republic of China has grown by more than \$300,000,000,000 annually since 2000;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is a voting member of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank and provides loans to Latin America through the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, including to Venezuela, which has approximately \$60,000,000,000 worth of Chinese state loans as of October 2023;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has invested in or bid on numerous infrastructure projects in Latin America, including around the Panama Canal, such as deep-water ports, telecommunications projects, and cyber networks;

Whereas investments offered to countries in Latin America by the People's Republic of China often require countries to renegotiate the terms of their debt and have low or nonexistent labor and environmental standards;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's refusal to disclose its lending to foreign countries and reluctance to engage in significant debt restructuring is undermining the missions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank related to global economic development and stability;

Whereas, in 2021, the People's Republic of China developed a Joint Action Plan with the Community of Latin Amer-

ican and Caribbean States to promote cooperation on governance, economic, and security policy;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has invested more than \$70,000,000,000 in the raw materials sector in Latin America, including critical minerals such as lithium, nickel, and cobalt;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has sought to export military hardware to Latin America and bolster intelligence operations and cooperation with governments in Latin America, including by establishing a defense forum with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

Whereas Taiwan served as a permanent observer to the Central American Parliament for more than 2 decades before the Central American Parliament voted on August 21, 2023, to expel Taiwan and replace it with the People’s Republic of China;

Whereas State-owned Chinese media operates in Latin America and conducts malign influence operations with a goal of influencing public opinion relating to activities conducted by the People’s Republic of China and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party; and

Whereas the United States has a vested interest in maintaining and growing the important bilateral and multilateral relationships it has with countries in Latin America, which are underscored through cooperation at the Organization of American States and through trade agreements and strategic dialogues: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2                (1) notes the importance of continuing to de-  
3        velop and establish trade agreements with bilateral

1 partners in Latin America and pursue multilateral  
2 and regional engagement through international fora  
3 to counter involvement of the People's Republic of  
4 China in economic, political, and security issues in  
5 the Western Hemisphere;

6 (2) urges additional United States investment  
7 in and foreign assistance to Latin America, includ-  
8 ing by expanding opportunities for private sector in-  
9 vestment in critical infrastructure projects or by de-  
10 veloping and promoting new public-private partner-  
11 ships with partners in Latin America to strengthen  
12 the economic engagement of the United States and  
13 advance democratic governance in the region;

14 (3) expresses gratitude to Belize, Guatemala,  
15 Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia,  
16 and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their con-  
17 tinued support for Taiwan;

18 (4) condemns efforts by state-owned Chinese  
19 media to conduct information operations in Latin  
20 America and sow distrust in public institutions, in-  
21 cluding judicial systems;

22 (5) supports transparent bidding processes for  
23 projects related to the telecommunications and infor-  
24 mation and communications technology sectors in  
25 Latin America as well as other critical infrastructure

1 projects, including cyber and digital connectivity  
2 projects;

3 (6) encourages the President and the Secretary  
4 of State to work with the Senate to expeditiously  
5 nominate Ambassadors and ensure diplomatic per-  
6 sonnel are swiftly confirmed to the relevant posts to  
7 ensure continued engagement with partner govern-  
8 ments in Latin America;

9 (7) emphasizes the importance of continuing to  
10 provide technical assistance to partners in Latin  
11 America, including assistance to counter  
12 disinformation, corruption, and economic coercion  
13 through available mechanisms such as the United  
14 States International Development Finance Corpora-  
15 tion;

16 (8) reaffirms the importance of the annual  
17 Summit of the Americas as an opportunity to pro-  
18 mote the bilateral and multilateral relationships be-  
19 tween the United States and allies and partners in  
20 Latin America, including new initiatives established  
21 as a result of cooperation at the Summit of the  
22 Americas such as the Americas Partnership for Eco-  
23 nomic Prosperity;

24 (9) acknowledges the 24 active partnerships the  
25 United States has with defense and security forces

1 in Latin America through the State Partnership  
2 Program of the National Guard, which include an  
3 emphasis on implementing the Women, Peace, and  
4 Security Strategy of the United States; and

5 (10) renews its commitment to establishing, up-  
6 holding, and investing in partnership opportunities  
7 between the United States and Latin America.

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