

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Ecuador and recognizing the restoration and advancement of economic relations, security, and development opportunities in both nations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Ecuador and recognizing the restoration and advancement of economic relations, security, and development opportunities in both nations.

Whereas the United States and Ecuador have enjoyed a history of bilateral partnership and cooperation, and share the aims of promoting democratic values, economic prosperity, and the security of both nations;

Whereas the United States and Ecuador have taken important steps to restore the bilateral relationship between the United States and Ecuador, including by signing various agreements to strengthen economic ties, security cooperation, and development opportunities;

Whereas President Moreno has signaled Ecuador's commitment to promoting democratic values and has advocated for greater government transparency;

Whereas in February 2018, more than 64 percent of Ecuadorians voted, in a constitutional referendum, to reinstate a 2-term presidential limit, an effort that was carried out by President Moreno's administration and which is indicative of the Ecuadorian people's support for presidential term limits as a reasonable check against a history of corruption and abuse of power;

Whereas the United States-Ecuador bilateral relationship has been historically characterized by strong commercial and investment ties through the Generalized System of Preferences, the United States-Ecuador Trade and Investment Council, and the Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Ecuador Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, done at Washington August 27, 1993, which was terminated by Ecuador's previous government, effective May 18, 2018;

Whereas President Moreno's administration has committed to implement economic policies that will lay the groundwork for sustainable economic growth, while protecting the poorest and most vulnerable people;

Whereas, under President Moreno's leadership, there have been significant advances in areas related to freedom of expression, including through the reform of the controversial Ecuadorian Communications Law;

Whereas the Government of Ecuador has called for the peaceful restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Ven-

ezuela and Ecuador has been a generous host of approximately 385,000 Venezuelan refugees;

Whereas on May 15, 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ecuador’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to the return of the USAID Mission to Ecuador after the 53-year program was forced to close in 2014 due to tensions in the bilateral relationship;

Whereas Ecuador has been one of the countries most affected by the COVID–19 pandemic in Latin America, with more than 42,000 confirmed cases and approximately 3,500 deaths as of June 5, 2020, which has overwhelmed the country’s health care system and aggravated the country’s already challenging economic situation;

Whereas in response to the COVID–19 pandemic, USAID is providing Ecuador with technical support and training in diagnostics, and technical assistance in clinical management, risk communication, and community engagement; and

Whereas the United States and Ecuador have agreed to advance security cooperation on law enforcement, counter-narcotics, anticorruption, and bilateral military training and assistance: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms its commitment—

3 (A) to the historic partnership between the
4 United States and Ecuador; and

5 (B) to continue working to strengthen the
6 relationship between the United States and Ec-

1 cuador based on mutual respect and shared
2 democratic values and principles;

3 (2) recognizes President Lenin Moreno and his
4 administration for recommitting Ecuador to demo-
5 cratic values, anti-corruption efforts, and the adop-
6 tion of economic policies that will benefit the people
7 of Ecuador;

8 (3) commends the important steps that Presi-
9 dent Moreno and his administration have taken to
10 protect freedom of expression and freedom of the
11 press in his country;

12 (4) encourages the Republic of Ecuador to en-
13 sure that the rights of refugees and asylum seekers
14 are protected; and

15 (5) supports actions to strengthen the historic
16 bilateral relationship between the United States and
17 Ecuador, including—

18 (A) the establishment of robust bilateral
19 trade and investment frameworks with Ecuador
20 to build mutual prosperity through greater
21 transparency and competitiveness;

22 (B) stronger law enforcement and security
23 cooperation between the two countries, includ-
24 ing in cybersecurity, border management, coun-
25 ternarcotics, anti-money laundering, military

1 and civilian security professionalization, and
2 criminal justice capabilities;

3 (C) the return of the United States Agency
4 for International Development and the exten-
5 sion of the Peace Corps Program in Ecuador;

6 (D) continued United States assistance for
7 Ecuador's response to combat the COVID-19
8 pandemic;

9 (E) closer ties between Americans and
10 Ecuadoreans through English language learning
11 and teaching programs that foster greater pro-
12 fessional and educational opportunities;

13 (F) continued efforts to protect freedom of
14 expression and freedom of the press; and

15 (G) continued efforts to ensure that the
16 rights of refugees and asylum seekers are pro-
17 tected.