

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 538

Expressing support for a second United States-Africa Leaders Summit as an important opportunity to strengthen ties between the United States and African partners and build on areas of mutual interest.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8 (legislative day, MARCH 7), 2022

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for a second United States-Africa Leaders Summit as an important opportunity to strengthen ties between the United States and African partners and build on areas of mutual interest.

Whereas meaningful and consistent high-level multilateral engagement between the United States and Africa is necessary for the foreign policy of the United States to keep pace with the rapid transformation and demographic shifts in Africa and to ensure that the United States understands and responds to the dynamism and ambitions of its African partners;

Whereas successive United States Presidential administrations and Congress have identified strategic competition with the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federa-

tion, and other malign actors as a threat to the national security priorities of the United States that requires building and maintaining networks of bilateral and multi-lateral partners and allies, including countries in Africa;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China, the European Union, India, Japan, the Russian Federation, and Turkey, among others, have held high-level summits with African leaders to discuss policy priorities and deepen economic, political, and security partnerships;

Whereas, during August 4 through 6, 2014, President Barack Obama hosted the first and only United States-Africa Leaders Summit (referred to in this preamble as the “2014 Summit”) in Washington, DC, with African leaders representing 50 countries, the African Union Commission, and various private sector and civil society leaders under the theme “Investing in the Next Generation”;

Whereas the 2014 Summit provided a forum for African leaders to engage in frank exchanges with the Government of the United States and congressional leaders, business executives, and members of civil society regarding—

- (1) development and economic challenges;
- (2) trade, investment, and economic cooperation;
- (3) democracy, human rights, and governance; and
- (4) peace and regional security;

Whereas, on February 5, 2021, at the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., outlined the vision of his administration for a United States-Africa partnership to strengthen relationships and build on mutual interests and respect with the governments, people (including people of the African

Diaspora), and regional multilateral institutions of Africa;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, during a speech to the Economic Community of West African States in Abuja, Nigeria, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that the United States would host a second United States-Africa Leaders Summit “to drive the kind of high-level diplomacy and engagement that can transform relationships and make effective cooperation possible”; and

Whereas a well-organized and resourced second United States-Africa Leaders Summit, with an established mechanism for continuity and follow-up, will create a platform upon which the United States and African partners can better structure United States-Africa relationships, deliver on commitments, solve problems, and work together as partners on areas of mutual interest: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the administration of President
3 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., hosting a second United
4 States-Africa Leaders Summit (referred to in this
5 resolution as the “Summit”) as a vital opportunity
6 to strengthen ties between the United States and Af-
7 rican partners;

8 (2) underscores the importance of bipartisan,
9 bicameral congressional participation in the Summit;

10 (3) commits to working with the heads of state,
11 civil society, private sector, and the African Dias-

1 pora to build stronger ties with the United States
2 and pursue mutual interests; and

3 (4) urges the Biden administration—

4 (A) to conduct adequate and diverse con-
5 sultation with African leaders, the African Di-
6 aspora, educational institutions, private sector
7 and civil society organizations of the United
8 States and Africa, and public policy institutions
9 in planning the Summit;

10 (B) to consider hosting the Summit in a
11 location outside of Washington, DC, that will—

12 (i) draw broad participation from
13 State Governors and high-level corporate
14 leadership in the United States; and

15 (ii) clarify that the private sector,
16 rather than governments, is the primary
17 driver of the commercial relationship be-
18 tween the United States and African coun-
19 tries;

20 (C) to consider facilitating trips by African
21 leaders to other cities in the United States and
22 inviting like-minded partners from Europe, the
23 Middle East, Asia, and the Western Hemi-
24 sphere to participate as observers;

1 (D) to ensure that sessions focused on
2 trade and investment between the United States
3 and Africa include adequate facilitation of busi-
4 ness-focused deal-making with African govern-
5 ments, the African Diaspora, and private sector
6 through Prosper Africa and other similar initia-
7 tives;

8 (E) to include a theme for the Summit
9 that focuses on shared democracy, governance,
10 and human rights concerns and priorities;

11 (F) to create opportunities during the
12 Summit for direct congressional engagement
13 and to ensure the participation of multiple cabi-
14 net members, including members who do not
15 traditionally work on foreign policy, trade, and
16 investment;

17 (G) to hold bilateral one-on-one presi-
18 dential engagements during the Summit to
19 build stronger personal relationships with Afri-
20 can leaders while also solidifying commitments
21 and areas of mutual interest;

22 (H) to issue a formal declaration or com-
23 munique after the Summit describing commit-
24 ments and a roadmap for future engagement;
25 and

1 (I) to create a formal mechanism, with ap-
2 propriate funding and personnel resources, to
3 track and follow up on the implementation of
4 pledges made at the Summit and build upon
5 such commitments for future summits.

○