

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 308

To end the treatment of the People’s Republic of China as a developing nation.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To end the treatment of the People’s Republic of China  
as a developing nation.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ending China’s Devel-  
5 oping Nation Status Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It should be the policy of the United States—

8 (1) to oppose the labeling or treatment of the  
9 People’s Republic of China as a developing nation in  
10 current and future treaty negotiations and in each

1 international organization of which the United  
2 States and the People’s Republic of China are both  
3 current members; and

4 (2) to pursue the labeling or treatment of the  
5 People’s Republic of China as a developed nation in  
6 each international organization of which the United  
7 States and the People’s Republic of China are both  
8 current members.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
12 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
13 gress” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
15 the Senate; and

16 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
17 the House of Representatives.

18 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
19 the Secretary of State.

20 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT STATUS IN CURRENT**  
21 **TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.**

22 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to  
24 the appropriate committees of Congress identifying all  
25 current treaty negotiations in which—

1           (1) the proposed treaty develops different  
2 standards for the enforcement of the treaty based on  
3 the development status of the member states of the  
4 treaty; and

5           (2) the People's Republic of China is under con-  
6 sideration for becoming a party to the treaty.

7 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT STATUS IN EXISTING**  
8 **ORGANIZATIONS AND TREATIES.**

9           Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
10 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to  
11 the appropriate committees of Congress identifying—

12           (1) all international organizations or treaties, of  
13 which the United States is a member, that have dif-  
14 ferent standards for enforcement based on the devel-  
15 opment status of the member states; and

16           (2) for each of the organizations or treaties  
17 identified pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary  
18 shall provide a list of countries that—

19           (A) are labeled as developing nations or re-  
20 ceive the benefits of a developing nation under  
21 the terms of the organization or treaty; and

22           (B) meet the World Bank classification for  
23 upper middle income or high-income countries.

1 **SEC. 6. MECHANISMS FOR CHANGING DEVELOPMENT STA-**  
2 **TUS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In any international organization  
4 of which the United States and the People’s Republic of  
5 China are both current members, the Secretary shall pur-  
6 sue—

7 (1) changing the status of the People’s Republic  
8 of China from developing nation to developed nation  
9 if a mechanism exists in such organization to make  
10 such status change; or

11 (2) proposing the development of a mechanism  
12 described in paragraph (1) to change the status of  
13 the People’s Republic of China in such organization  
14 from developing nation to developed nation.

15 (b) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive the applica-  
16 tion of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) with respect  
17 to any international organization if the President notifies  
18 the appropriate committees of Congress that such a waiver  
19 is in the national interests of the United States.

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