

Congress resolution recognizing the US' national interest in preventing mass atrocities

US Congress 22 December 2010 On December 22, 2010, the Senate adopted a resolution condemning genocide and mass atrocity crimes and reaffirmed the commitment of the United States government to prevent and mitigate such acts. The Resolution was sponsored by former Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), and was cosponsored by 20 other senators. The passage of S. Con. Res. 71, although not legally binding, is of great importance as it recognizes the role of the U.S. in prevention and encourages the development of a whole government approach to averting genocide and mass atrocity crimes. The document stated: (...) Whereas,

in 2005, the United States and all other members of the United Nations agreed that the international community has 'a

responsibility

to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapter VI and VIII of the United Nations Charter, to help

protect

populations

from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity'

; (...)

(...) urges the President: to direct relevant departments and agencies of the United States Government to review and evaluate existing capacities for

anticipating, preventing, and responding to genocide and other mass atrocities

, and to determine specific steps to coordinate and enhance those capacities; and to develop and communicate a whole of government approach and policy to anticipate, prevent, and mitigate acts of genocide and other mass atrocities; (...)

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of S. Con. Res. 71.