

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES.

Congratulating the people of Burma on their commitment to peaceful elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of Burma on their commitment to peaceful elections.

Whereas Burma conducted general elections on November 8 2015, the country's first national vote since a civilian government was introduced in 2011 that ended nearly 50 years of military rule;

Whereas the people of Burma have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigning and public debate, strengthened the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas preliminary reports indicate that voter turnout exceeded 80 percent;

Whereas international observers have reported that election day was largely free and fair and conducted in an orderly

and peaceful fashion despite broader structural concerns such as the disenfranchisement of the Rohingya;

Whereas the ruling military-backed Union Solidarity Development Party suffered a dramatic loss at the polls, and the National League for Democracy won a sizable majority in both chambers of Burma's Union Parliament, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and will select the Burma's next President;

Whereas Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has symbolized the struggle for freedom and democracy in Burma and has actively supported democratic reform through her leadership of the National League for Democracy;

Whereas the National League for Democracy espouses a policy of nonviolent movement towards multi-party democracy in Burma, supports national reconciliation, and endorses strengthening democratic institutions, protecting human rights, implementing free market economic reforms, and reinforcing rule of law;

Whereas President Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief Min Aug Hlaing made public commitments to respect the election results and vowed to abide by the law to ensure an orderly and prompt transition to a new government;

Whereas the continued democratic development of Burma is a matter of fundamental importance to the advancement of United States interests in Southeast Asia and is supported by the United States Senate:

Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) congratulates the people of Burma for em-
2 bracing democracy through their participation in the
3 November 8, 2015 general elections and for their
4 continuing efforts in developing a free, democratic
5 society that respects internationally-recognized
6 human rights;

7 (2) recognizes the National League for Democ-
8 racy's victory as a reflection of the will of the Bur-
9 mese people;

10 (3) calls on the Union Solidarity Development
11 Party to undertake a peaceful transfer of power and
12 abide by the law to ensure an orderly and prompt
13 transition to a new government;

14 (4) encourages all parties to pursue national
15 reconciliation talks and work together in the spirit
16 of national unity to seek what is best for the coun-
17 try;

18 (5) recognizes that while the Government of
19 Burma has made important progress towards de-
20 mocratization, there remain important impediments
21 to the realization of full democratic and civilian gov-
22 ernment, including the reservation of unelected seats
23 for the military and the disenfranchisement of
24 groups of people including the Rohingya;

1 (6) expresses hope that newly elected members
2 of parliament and a prompt and orderly transition
3 to a new government will herald a new generation of
4 responsible leadership in Burma;

5 (7) calls on the Government of Burma to sup-
6 port meaningful efforts to reform the 2008 Constitu-
7 tion of Burma, with the full and unfettered partici-
8 pation of the people of Burma and in a manner that
9 promotes and protects democratic development of
10 Burma and safeguards against arbitrary interference
11 by the military;

12 (8) supports negotiations between the Govern-
13 ment of Burma and ethnic-based peoples and organi-
14 zations;

15 (9) encourages the President to take further
16 steps toward normalization of relations with Burma
17 and consider the potential relaxation of restrictions
18 should the Union Solidarity Development Party re-
19 spect the election results and proceed with a prompt
20 and orderly transition in power; and

21 (10) reaffirms that the people of the United
22 States will continue to stand with the people of
23 Burma in support of democracy, partnership, and
24 peace.