



DEMOCRATS ABROAD

DPCA Fall Meeting 2008 November 14-16, Istanbul, Turkey

Resolutions adopted

Standing Resolution on Global Meetings of the Democratic Party Committee Abroad in Every Region

proposed by Christine Schon Marques (International Chair)

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad has grown dramatically this year, with 11 new country committees reflecting the engagement and commitment of Americans in every part of the globe;

WHEREAS, Country Committees must attend one in three global meetings to maintain their full voting status;

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad must hold at least one global meeting per calendar year, which can be supplemented by additional regional meetings or a second global meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we commit to holding at least one global meeting in every region as well as at least one in Washington, D.C. during the course of every four-year election cycle, thereby ensuring that all regions and members benefit from hosting a worldwide meeting;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DPCA members from every region share in the commitment to attend all global meetings.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution rescinds all previous standing resolutions regarding such meetings.

Resolution congratulating Democrats for their efforts at home and abroad to win elections across the country

proposed by Christine Schon Marques (International Chair)

WHEREAS, Americans around the world have mobilized to bring real change to our country's leadership, recognizing that our global reputation has been damaged by the Republican Administration's misguided foreign and economic policies;

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad facilitated the participation of Americans living from Antarctica to Zambia in more than 160 countries and territories by holding the first Global Primary with voting in-person, online, by mail and fax, and by ensuring that voters overseas

in more than 200 countries and territories have easy access to absentee ballot registration and requests through www.VoteFromAbroad.org;

WHEREAS, Democrats Abroad overwhelmingly supported Barack Obama in our state party primary, generating the eleventh straight win for our presidential candidate;

WHEREAS, Barack Obama reaffirmed his commitment to all Americans – at home and abroad – with policies ensuring that we can meet the challenges of the 21st century successfully, through effective leadership and by restoring our Democratic values, by reducing the tax burden for the middle class, creating green jobs, acting on an economic plan stabilizing our fragile markets, setting a timetable for ending the war in Iraq and bringing our combat troops home, recognizing the rule of law, and engaging with the world;

WHEREAS, our Democratic candidates have also reaffirmed the values that we hold dear, calling for an America that reengages with the world, reestablishes its leadership role in today's global financial, political and energy environment, and provides the basis for opportunity for all Americans, by investing in education and health care;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad thanks the Americans around the world who have helped win elections across the country, for their invaluable contributions in building a stronger Party, getting out the vote, and for their dedicated efforts during the course of this critical election year;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad congratulates our state party colleagues who have helped win races across the country, Governor Howard Dean for his vision in implementing the 50-state strategy and for his ongoing support of all 56 state parties, and the Democratic National Committee's for its investment in our own state party and funding for field staff and advertising around the world;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad congratulates the Obama Campaign for its understanding that Americans around the world are actively engaged in efforts to support our Democratic candidates, and for its engagement with voters overseas;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad congratulates President-Elect Obama and Vice President-Elect Biden and all our Congressional Democrats whose overwhelming success delivers a long overdue mandate for change.”

Resolution concerning the aftermath of Bush-Cheney

proposed by Joe Smallhoover (International Counsel and Chair, DA France)

WHEREAS, the past eight years have seen a dramatic increase in divisiveness at home and abroad fostered by the desire of the Bush-Cheney Administration and their supporters in Congress, to win political power at all costs at the expense of the American people and the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the state of the nation is at a nadir, with two disastrous wars and an economic downturn with few parallels in recent times which put the nation and the world at risk;

WHEREAS, the Bush-Cheney Administration has wantonly ignored the serious problems facing the world, notably in connection with the environment and global warming;

WHEREAS, the assault on civil liberties threatens the very fiber of democracy in the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS, the results of the federal elections on November 4 make it clear that the majority of Americans believe that it is time for a drastic and dramatic change;

WHEREAS, such change can only be achieved by working together for the common weal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad calls on all members of the Congress – Democrats, Republicans and Independents – to work with the next president of the United States to put an end to such divisiveness and to work in unity toward the common weal, respecting their oaths to uphold the Constitution of the United States;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad welcomes a return by the next Administration to a respect for the rights, powers and prerogatives of Congress and of the federal Courts and to put an end to the theory and practice of the unitary (imperial) presidency foisted on the American nation by the Bush-Cheney Administration in violation of the Constitution of the United States;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad calls on all Americans, whether residing abroad or at home, to work together to overcome the perilous situation created by the Bush-Cheney Administration, regardless of whether they supported President-Elect Obama or Senator McCain in the recent federal elections.

Resolution concerning Congressional responsibility

drafted by Susan Vaillant (Chair, Democrats Abroad France-Eastern France Chapter)
and Samantha Timmerman (Chair, Democrats Abroad France-Riviera Chapter)

WHEREAS the United States Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land (Article VI),

WHEREAS the Constitution established a system of checks and balances and separation of powers designed to protect the United States from tyranny;

WHEREAS the Constitution invests the U.S. Congress with such legislative powers (Article I section 8) including the power to reconsider any bill rejected by the President and to make it law by a two-thirds majority;

WHEREAS in the past 8 years the U.S. Congress has allowed vetoes to stand without reconsideration;

WHEREAS the Constitution invests Congress with the power to lay and collect debts, and provide for the general Welfare of the United States;

WHEREAS the Congress has passed laws protecting practices that abuse the general Welfare by the banking and lending community;

WHEREAS the Constitution invests Congress with the power to raise and support armies, with appropriation of money limited to two years;

WHEREAS in the past 8 years government spending for the military has not respected this time limit, nor has it included in the budgets monies appropriated and spent on support armies, within its jurisdiction (Article I, Section 8, para. 12 and 16);

WHEREAS the Constitution invests Congress with the sole power to declare war;

WHEREAS since 2003 the United States has waged an invasive war without any such Congressional declaration;

WHEREAS the Constitution more generally invests Congress with the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers vested in the Constitution in the government of the United States and any Department or Officer thereof (Article I, Section 8, para. 18);

WHEREAS members of Congress take an oath of office to defend the Constitution (Article VI);

WHEREAS numerous members have nevertheless violated this oath, by aiding in the transfer of such powers to the executive branch,

WHEREAS this abnegation has contributed to the erosion of the Constitutional system of checks and balances and the separation of powers;

MAY IT BE RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad call on all members of the 111th Congress to respect their sworn duty to exercise these powers invested in them by the Constitution, to refuse complicity in the suppression of Constitutionally guaranteed rights and liberties, to restore by their votes and their actions the system of checks and balances, to restore Congress' sole power to declare war, and by so doing to place the power of law back in the hands of the People (Amendment 10 of the Bill of Rights) who have elected the Congress as their voice.