



H.Res. 1254 - Supporting the values and goals of the 'Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality', signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos on March 13, 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1254 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY). The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was not considered.

H.Res. 1254 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 9, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1254 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the need to promote equality and continue to work towards eliminating racial discrimination in both the United States and Brazil;
- Commends Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos for signing the 'Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality';
- Supports the continued involvement of the Government of the United States in the bilateral partnership of the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination through funding that may be designated for programs as part of this initiative;
- Encourages the participation of the Departments of State, Labor, Justice, and Education; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Congress; Federal, State, and local court systems; and other agencies in the collaborative process of the United States-Brazil Steering Group on Equality of Opportunity; and
- Urges the involvement of the private sector, civil society, and experts on race relations and other relevant topics to be considered as part of the Steering Group Advisory Board.

BACKGROUND

In 2003, Brazil's government established the Special Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality (SEPPIR), which carries out the National Policy to Promote Racial Equality. The Secretariat works with agencies in the Brazilian government to combat racial discrimination.

On March 13, 2008, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister Edson Santos signed the Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Ethnic and Racial Discrimination and Promote Equality. According to the State Department, "the plan calls for Brazil and the United States to work jointly in combating racial discrimination and sharing best practices in tackling discrimination in the areas of education, law enforcement, labor, health, and many other areas."



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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