

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9449

To provide for debt reduction for developing countries for purposes of
developing resilience, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mr. WHITESIDES (for himself, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for debt reduction for developing countries for
purposes of developing resilience, and for other purposes.

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 “Global Climate Resil-
5 ience Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEBT REDUCTION FOR COUNTRIES VULNERABLE**
 2 **TO EFFECTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS**
 3 **AND SLOW-ONSET DISASTERS.**

4 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151
 5 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART VI—DEBT REDUCTION FOR COUNTRIES**
 7 **VULNERABLE TO EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
 8 **“SEC. 901. DEBT REDUCTION FOR COUNTRIES VULNER-**
 9 **ABLE TO EFFECTS OF EXTREME WEATHER**
 10 **EVENTS AND SLOW-ONSET DISASTERS.**

11 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

12 “(1) to support the ability of countries to adapt
 13 to effects of extreme weather events and slow-onset
 14 climate disasters; and

15 “(2) to ensure that resources freed from debt in
 16 such countries are targeted to developing resilience
 17 to the effects of climate change.

18 “(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A country is eligible for
 20 benefits under this section if the President deter-
 21 mines that—

22 “(A) the country is—

23 “(i) a low income, lower-middle in-
 24 come, or upper-middle income country, as
 25 determined by the World Bank; or

1 “(ii) a small island developing state,
2 as determined by the United Nations;

3 “(B) the government of the country is
4 democratically elected;

5 “(C) the government of the country (in-
6 cluding its military or other security forces)
7 does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross
8 violations of internationally recognized human
9 rights; and

10 “(D) the government of the country has
11 developed a plan to use the benefits made avail-
12 able under this section to conduct—

13 “(i) resilience activities;

14 “(ii) preventative disaster risk reduc-
15 tion planning, including nature-based solu-
16 tions; or

17 “(iii) activities to recover from ex-
18 treme weather events or slow-onset climate
19 disasters.

20 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not less
21 than 15 days before formally determining under
22 paragraph (1) that a country is eligible for benefits
23 under this section, the President shall notify the ap-
24 propriate congressional committees of the intention

1 of the President to determine that the country is eli-
2 gible for such benefits.

3 “(3) PREFERENCES.—In providing benefits
4 under this section, preference shall be given to coun-
5 tries with plans described in paragraph (1)(D)
6 that—

7 “(A) involve local communities and Indige-
8 nous peoples in the planning and execution of
9 activities described in that paragraph; and

10 “(B) aim to reduce gender, income, and
11 social inequalities through such activities.

12 “(c) REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO UNITED
13 STATES AS RESULT OF CERTAIN LOANS.—

14 “(1) AUTHORITY TO REDUCE DEBT.—

15 “(A) AUTHORITY.—The President may re-
16 duce the amount owed to the United States (or
17 any agency of the United States) as a result of
18 loans made to an eligible country by the United
19 States under part I of this Act, chapter 4 of
20 part II of this Act, or predecessor foreign eco-
21 nomic assistance legislation.

22 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
23 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
24 priated to the President such sums as may be
25 necessary to carry out this subsection.

1 “(C) CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS INAPPLI-
2 CABLE.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A reduction of
4 debt pursuant to this subsection shall not
5 be considered assistance for purposes of
6 any provision of law limiting assistance to
7 a country.

8 “(ii) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN
9 RESTRICTIONS.—The authority of this sub-
10 section may be exercised notwithstanding
11 section 620(r) of this Act or section 321 of
12 the International Development and Food
13 Assistance Act of 1975 (Public Law 94–
14 161; 22 U.S.C. 2220a note).

15 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF DEBT REDUCTION.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any debt reduction
17 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be accom-
18 plished at the direction of the President by the
19 exchange of a new obligation for obligations of
20 the type referred to in that paragraph.

21 “(B) EXCHANGE OF OBLIGATIONS.—

22 “(i) NOTIFICATION.—The President
23 shall notify the agency primarily respon-
24 sible for administering part I of this Act
25 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) of an agreement

1 entered into under subparagraph (A) with
2 a country to exchange a new obligation for
3 outstanding obligations.

4 “(ii) CANCELLATION AND ISSUANCE
5 OF NEW DEBT.—At the direction of the
6 President, the old obligations that are the
7 subject of the agreement entered into
8 under subparagraph (A) shall be canceled
9 and a new debt obligation for the country
10 shall be established relating to the agree-
11 ment, and the agency primarily responsible
12 for administering part I of this Act shall
13 make an adjustment in its accounts to re-
14 flect the debt reduction.

15 “(d) AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN DEBT-FOR-RESIL-
16 IENCE SWAPS AND DEBT BUYBACKS.—

17 “(1) LOANS ELIGIBLE FOR SALE, REDUCTION,
18 OR CANCELLATION.—

19 “(A) DEBT-FOR-RESILIENCE SWAPS.—

20 “(i) SALE, REDUCTION, AND CAN-
21 CELLATION.—Notwithstanding any other
22 provision of law, the President may, in ac-
23 cordance with this subsection, sell to any
24 eligible purchaser described in subpara-
25 graph (B) loans described in subsection

1 (c)(1)(A), or on receipt of payment from
2 such a purchaser, reduce or cancel such
3 loans or portion thereof, only for the pur-
4 pose of facilitating debt-for-resilience
5 swaps.

6 “(ii) PURCHASE OF PRIVATELY
7 OWNED DEBT.—

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Presi-
9 dent may, in accordance with this
10 subsection, purchase privately owned
11 debt of an eligible country, if that
12 debt is purchased for not more than
13 65 percent of the face value of the
14 debt, for the purpose of facilitating
15 debt-for-resilience swaps.

16 “(II) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Not-
17 withstanding section 3302 of title 31,
18 United States Code, the proceeds of
19 any purchase under subclause (I)—

20 “(aa) shall be credited as
21 offsetting collections to the ac-
22 count that finances the activities
23 under this section;

24 “(bb) shall be available for
25 expenditure only to pay the costs

1 of activities under this section;
2 and

3 “(cc) shall remain available
4 until expended.

5 “(B) ELIGIBLE PURCHASER DESCRIBED.—
6 A loan may be sold, reduced, or canceled under
7 subparagraph (A) only to a purchaser that pre-
8 sents plans satisfactory to the President for
9 using the loan for the purpose of engaging in
10 debt-for-resilience swaps.

11 “(C) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—Be-
12 fore the sale under subparagraph (A)(i) to any
13 eligible purchaser described in subparagraph
14 (B), or any reduction or cancellation under sub-
15 paragraph (A)(i), of any loan made to an eligi-
16 ble country, and before the purchase of pri-
17 vately owned debt under subparagraph (A)(ii),
18 the President shall consult with the country
19 concerning the amount of loans to be sold, re-
20 duced, or canceled, or debt to be purchased, as
21 the case may be, and their uses for debt-for-re-
22 silience swaps.

23 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
24 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-

1 pried to the President such sums as may be
2 necessary to carry out this subsection.

3 “(2) DEBT BUYBACKS.—Notwithstanding any
4 other provision of law, the President may, in accord-
5 ance with this subsection, sell to any eligible country
6 any loans described in subsection (c)(1)(A) or on re-
7 ceipt of payment from an eligible country, reduce or
8 cancel such loans or portion thereof, only for the
9 purpose of facilitating a debt buyback by an eligible
10 country of its own qualified debt in order to support
11 resilience activities.

12 “(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Notwith-
13 standing any other provision of law, the President
14 shall, in accordance with this subsection, establish
15 the terms and conditions under which loans may be
16 sold, reduced, or canceled pursuant to this sub-
17 section.

18 “(4) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The proceeds
19 from the sale, reduction, or cancellation of any loan
20 sold, reduced, or canceled pursuant to this sub-
21 section shall be deposited in the United States Gov-
22 ernment account or accounts established for the re-
23 payment of the loan.

24 “(e) CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS.—The Presi-
25 dent shall consult with the appropriate congressional com-

1 mittees on a periodic basis to review the operation of this
 2 section and the eligibility of countries for benefits under
 3 this section.

4 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 15 of
 6 each year, the President shall prepare and submit to
 7 Congress an annual report concerning the operation
 8 of this section during the preceding calendar year.

9 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by
 10 paragraph (1) shall include—

11 “(A) a description of the activities under-
 12 taken under this section during the preceding
 13 calendar year; and

14 “(B) a description of any agreement en-
 15 tered into under this section.

16 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 18 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
 19 mittees’ means—

20 “(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
 21 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
 22 Senate; and

23 “(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
 24 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
 25 House of Representatives.

1 “(2) DEBT-FOR-RESILIENCE SWAP.—The term
2 ‘debt-for-resilience swap’ means the reduction of
3 amounts owed to the United States (or any agency
4 of the United States) by an eligible country in ex-
5 change for the commitment of that country to con-
6 duct resilience activities.

7 “(3) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible
8 country’ means a country determined under sub-
9 section (b) to be eligible for benefits under this sec-
10 tion.

11 “(4) EXTREME WEATHER EVENT.—The term
12 ‘extreme weather event’ means an occurrence of un-
13 usually severe weather or climate conditions that can
14 cause devastating impacts on communities and agri-
15 cultural and natural ecosystems.

16 “(5) RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘resil-
17 ience activities’ means activities undertaken to make
18 changes to processes, practices, or structures that
19 moderate potential damage from hazardous events,
20 trends, or disturbances associated with extreme
21 weather events and slow-onset climate disasters.

22 “(6) SLOW-ONSET CLIMATE DISASTER.—The
23 term ‘slow-onset climate disaster’ means an event
24 that evolves gradually from incremental changes oc-
25 curring over many years or from an increased fre-

1 quency or intensity of recurring events, such as sea-
2 level rise, loss of biodiversity, desertification, increas-
3 ing temperatures, or ocean acidification.”.

4 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-**
5 **TIONS FOR REDUCING DEBT LOAD OF COUN-**
6 **TRIES WITH HIGH VULNERABILITY TO EX-**
7 **TREME WEATHER EVENTS AND SLOW-ONSET**
8 **CLIMATE DISASTERS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Executive Di-
10 rectors at the international financial institutions shall use
11 the voice and vote of the United States in those institu-
12 tions to support eligible countries with high vulnerability
13 to extreme weather events and slow-onset climate disasters
14 by advocating for policies that reduce or restructure the
15 debt load of those countries, such as by facilitating—

- 16 (1) debt forgiveness agreements;
17 (2) debt buybacks;
18 (3) debt-for-resilience and debt-for-nature
19 swaps; and
20 (4) other similar programs.

21 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- 22 (1) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term “eligible
23 country” means—

1 (A) a low income, lower-middle income, or
2 upper-middle income country, as determined by
3 the World Bank; or

4 (B) a small island developing state, as de-
5 termined by the United Nations.

6 (2) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-
7 TION.—The term “international financial institu-
8 tion” means each of the following:

9 (A) The International Monetary Fund.

10 (B) The International Bank for Recon-
11 struction and Development.

12 (C) The International Development Asso-
13 ciation.

14 (D) The International Finance Corpora-
15 tion.

16 (E) The Multilateral Investment Guar-
17 antee Agency.

18 (F) The African Development Fund.

19 (G) The African Development Bank.

20 (H) The Asian Development Fund.

21 (I) The Asian Development Bank.

22 (J) The European Bank for Reconstruc-
23 tion and Development.

24 (K) The Inter-American Development
25 Bank (in this section referred to as “IDB”).

1 (L) IDB Invest.

2 (M) The North American Development
3 Bank.

4 (3) OTHER TERMS.—The terms “extreme
5 weather event” and “slow-onset climate disaster”
6 have the meanings given those terms in section 901
7 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by
8 section 2.

9 **SEC. 4. ADVOCACY FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INSUR-**
10 **ANCE PROGRAM AT WORLD BANK.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The representatives of the United
12 States to the World Bank shall use the voice and vote of
13 the United States to advocate for the establishment of a
14 parametric international climate insurance program that
15 provides immediate financial assistance, in the form of in-
16 surance payments, to eligible countries to meet recovery
17 needs following natural disasters.

18 (b) ELEMENTS.—The structure and requirements of
19 the program described in subsection (a) shall be deter-
20 mined by the World Bank, but may include—

21 (1) payments to—

22 (A) small producers and vulnerable sectors
23 affected by natural disasters; and

24 (B) the governments of member countries
25 affected by natural disasters for—

- 1 (i) program restoration;
- 2 (ii) disaster cleanup;
- 3 (iii) climate adaptation;
- 4 (iv) ecosystem restoration and nature-
- 5 based solutions; and
- 6 (v) other recovery efforts;

7 (2) eligibility criteria that are comparable to the
8 eligibility criteria for debt reduction under section
9 901(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as
10 added by section 2;

11 (3) consideration of the aggregate risk of nat-
12 ural disasters across eligible countries to reduce pre-
13 miums; and

14 (4) support for existing international climate-re-
15 lated insurance programs such as the Caribbean Ca-
16 tastrophe Risk Insurance Facility.

17 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term “eligible
19 country” means—

20 (A) a low income, lower-middle income, or
21 upper-middle income country, as determined by
22 the World Bank; or

23 (B) a small island developing state, as de-
24 termined by the United Nations.

1 (2) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term “natural
2 disaster” means any hurricane, tornado, storm,
3 flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsu-
4 nami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide,
5 mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, or other catas-
6 trophe that causes, or may cause, substantial dam-
7 age or injury to civilian property or persons, eco-
8 systems, or services of ecosystems.

9 (3) WORLD BANK.—The term “World Bank”
10 means the following, collectively:

11 (A) The International Bank for Recon-
12 struction and Development.

13 (B) The International Development Asso-
14 ciation.

15 (C) The International Finance Corpora-
16 tion.

17 (D) The Multilateral Investment Guar-
18 antee Agency.

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