

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 9087
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS**

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . INDIAN OCEAN REGION STRATEGIC REVIEW.**

2 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
3 of the United States—

4 (1) that, as part of its broader Indo-Pacific en-
5 gagement strategy, the United States shall strength-
6 en engagement with Indian Ocean region countries,
7 including governments, civil society, academia, and
8 private sectors; and

9 (2) to enhance United States and allied pres-
10 ence and partnerships through the following actions:

11 (A) Promoting cohesive political ties via re-
12 gional organizations and stronger bilateral di-
13 plomacy.

14 (B) Deepening the bilateral security rela-
15 tionship with India, including enhanced intel-
16 ligence sharing, military communication, and
17 naval cooperation.

18 (C) Engaging India to operationalize re-
19 gional economic and political opportunities.

1 (D) Expanding economic connectivity and
2 commercial exchange with Indian Ocean region
3 countries.

4 (E) Ensuring freedom of navigation and
5 unimpeded access to regional trade routes con-
6 sistent with international law.

7 (F) Addressing maritime security threats
8 including piracy and illegal fishing through
9 joint cooperation.

10 (G) Supporting regional capacity to re-
11 spond to environmental disasters and build re-
12 siliant infrastructure.

13 (H) Strengthening maritime domain
14 awareness and security through cooperation
15 with allies and partners.

16 (I) Advancing coordination with allies and
17 partners—including Japan, Australia, India,
18 the United Kingdom, and France—to uphold a
19 rules-based order.

20 (J) Assessing resources and tools needed
21 for sustained United States diplomatic and eco-
22 nomic engagement.

23 (b) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of State, in consulta-
24 tion with the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a strategy
25 to enhance United States, allied, and partner presence, in-

1 fluence, and access in the Indian Ocean region. The strat-
2 egy shall include—

3 (1) an identification of the political, economic,
4 and security goals and opportunities of the United
5 States in the Indian Ocean region;

6 (2) an explanation of the political, economic,
7 and security goals of Indian Ocean region countries
8 and a detailed description of areas with respect to
9 which such interests align with the goals of the
10 United States;

11 (3) a list that details the economic and political
12 efforts of the People’s Republic of China with re-
13 spect to the Indian Ocean region, particularly with
14 respect to the engagement by the People’s Republic
15 of China with each country located within the Indian
16 Ocean region;

17 (4) a description and analysis of challenges, in-
18 cluding countries and specific projects, to the en-
19 gagement with Indian Ocean region countries as a
20 result of—

21 (A) disparate policy goals across the de-
22 partments and agencies of the United States
23 Government; and

24 (B) disparate definitions of the term “In-
25 dian Ocean region”;

1 (5) a list that details efforts to improve co-
2 operation between the United States and Australia,
3 India, and Japan (commonly referred to as the
4 “Quadrilateral Dialogue” or “Quad” and referred to
5 as such in this section), through coordination be-
6 tween members of the Quad with respect to diplo-
7 macy and development priorities, joint military exer-
8 cises and operations, and other activities that pro-
9 mote and balance the political, economic, and secu-
10 rity interests of the United States with respect to
11 Indian Ocean region countries;

12 (6) an overview of efforts to support the eco-
13 nomic connectivity and development of island coun-
14 tries located within the Indian Ocean region, includ-
15 ing through the United States-India-Japan Tri-
16 lateral Infrastructure Working Group, the Asia-Afri-
17 ca Growth Corridor, and other efforts to expand and
18 enhance connectivity across the Indo-Pacific region
19 (including with the countries of Southeast Asia) that
20 maintain high standards of investment and support
21 for civil society and people-to-people connectivity;

22 (7) a description of how the United States may
23 engage with regional intergovernmental organiza-
24 tions and multilateral organizations, including the
25 Indian Ocean Rim Association and the United Na-

1 tions, to promote the political, economic, and secu-
2 rity goals of the United States in the Indian Ocean
3 region;

4 (8) a description of how the United States may
5 facilitate cooperation between Indian Ocean region
6 countries (including with the governments, civil soci-
7 ety, academia, and private sectors of such countries)
8 and Taiwan, through Taiwan's New Southbound
9 Policy;

10 (9) a review of the diplomatic posture of the
11 United States in the Indian Ocean region, includ-
12 ing—

13 (A) an assessment of the diplomatic en-
14 gagement by the United States with Indian
15 Ocean region countries without a permanent
16 United States embassy or diplomatic mission;

17 (B) an assessment of means by which to
18 improve cooperation by the United States with
19 the Maldives, the Seychelles, and Comoros;

20 (C) an assessment of the sufficiency of
21 United States diplomatic personnel and facili-
22 ties available in the Indian Ocean region to
23 achieve United States policy in such region;

1 (D) a description of any fiscal or personnel
2 resources required to fill identified gaps with
3 respect to such diplomatic posture; and

4 (E) a description of the bilateral and mul-
5 tilateral diplomatic goals of the Department
6 that the Secretary deems necessary to achieve
7 United States policy in the Indian Ocean re-
8 gion;

9 (10) a review of the agreements entered into
10 between the United States and Indian Ocean region
11 countries for the purpose of facilitating the military
12 operations of the United States pursuant to bilateral
13 and multilateral agreements and a description of any
14 efforts to expand the naval and coast guard coopera-
15 tion of the United States with India and other In-
16 dian Ocean region countries through the negotiation
17 of additional agreements;

18 (11) a strategy for the provision of United
19 States security assistance to the governments of In-
20 dian Ocean region countries, including a summary of
21 the security priorities, objectives, and actions of the
22 prospective recipient country and a description of
23 the means by which the United States may support
24 such security priorities, objectives, and actions while

1 promoting the political, economic, and security goals
2 of the United States in the Indian Ocean region;

3 (12) a security assistance assessment of the ca-
4 pabilities, training, and funding needed for countries
5 in the region to push back against shared challenges
6 in the region; and

7 (13) a plan to expand the foreign assistance
8 presence of the United States with respect to the
9 governments of island countries located within the
10 Indian Ocean region, including a description of any
11 resources or policy tools required to expand the abil-
12 ity of the United States to offer high-quality infra-
13 structure resiliency projects to such countries.

14 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
16 three years, the Assistant Secretary of State for South
17 and Central Asian Affairs shall submit to the Committee
18 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and
19 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-
20 port that contains the strategy required by subsection (b).

21 (d) INCLUSION.—The strategy required by subsection
22 (b) may be submitted to the committees listed in sub-
23 section (c) as a part of any other strategy relating to the
24 Indo-Pacific region.

