Mr. President, I

wish to thank my distinguished colleague,

Senator DURBIN, for bringing us

together today to talk about the ongoing

genocide in Darfur and, more specifically,

the upcoming U.N. Security

Council resolution and for his continuing

efforts in the Senate.

I am also honored and pleased to be

with Senator FEINGOLD, who has been

such an incredibly powerful voice on

this issue, both in his position as the

chairman of the African Subcommittee

on Foreign Relations and in his principle

position itself. I am honored to

join with them in this effort.

Today, as we speak on the Senate

floor, the U.N. Security Council is negotiating

a new Darfur resolution. So

today we are on the Senate floor to

send a loud and clear message to the

United Nations. The people of Darfur

need a strong and meaningful resolution

that puts into action the end of

the genocide and ensures that a United

Nations-African Union troop force gets

into Darfur.

Today, we are here to add our voices

to those who call for a U.N. resolution

with strong authority, for a robust hybrid

United Nations-African Union

force, and a full mandate and speedy

deployment. It has long been clear that

the overstretched and underfunded African

Union troops cannot end the

genocide. If this new force is not allowed

in, the carnage and the destruction

we have witnessed now for over 4

years will continue.

We have known that a U.N. force is

the key to ending the violence in

Darfur, and we have tried in the past to

put it into place. Over a year ago, when

I first came to the Senate, I got the

Senate to pass an amendment for $60

million to fund the U.N. peacekeeping

force in Darfur. I was joined by my colleagues

in that effort.

Almost 1 year ago, the U.N. Security

Council passed Resolution 1706, which

called for 22,500 U.N. troops and police

officers to support the African Union

force in Sudan. Yet we still see no hybrid

force on the ground. We still hear

of attacks on humanitarian workers,

we still learn of atrocities against civilians.

The lives of these millions of displaced

persons now hang in a delicate

balance between life and death. If we

were in the refugee camps being attacked,

who among us would be content

with the counsels of: patience, patience,

and delay. Who?

Let’s be frank; it has been the Government

of Sudan that has kept this

force from entering. Now they recently

have agreed to allow a force in. Yet we

have heard these words before. Words

mean little without real action. That is

why I am pleased this new U.N. Security

Council will likely include the

transfer of authority to a hybrid

United Nations-African Union mission

that will allow the use of force to ensure

the security and movement of the

mission’s personnel and humanitarian

workers.

But to be meaningful, this force must

be deployed, and it must be deployed as

quickly as humanly possible. I am disappointed,

however, that after rounds

of negotiations, the resolution was ultimately

watered down. From what I

understand, there will be no reference

to sanctions, there will be no right to

seize and dispose of illegal arms, there

will be no reference to the jingaweit,

the brutal pro-Khartoum militia force

responsible for many of the atrocities.

While I understand the need to negotiate

a resolution that will pass, ultimately,

we cannot let this manipulation

continue. We cannot let Sudan’s

Ambassador have veto power over

these lives. We cannot let nations with

permanent seats and veto power on the

Council continue to act irresponsibly.

That is where I wish to close.

China says they generally approve,

generally approve of the new resolution.

They have been working, however,

behind the scenes to weaken it.

They reportedly helped remove references

to sanctions. They reportedly

objected to its ‘‘controversial tone’’

about genocide. Simply put, they continue

to act in their own economic interest.

We have seen them take some

positive steps in the past, and it is

positive that they are reportedly not

going to block this resolution and that

they may even support it.

But such a small step when China is

under public international pressure is

simply not enough. That is why I am

pleased my resolution on China and

Darfur passed the Senate last night.

This resolution, which my colleagues

on the floor supported, calls on China

to use its unique influence and economic

leverage to stop the genocide

and violence in Darfur.

China has longstanding economic and

military ties with Sudan, and they

must use their economic leverage to do

more than fill their wallet. As China

prepares to host the 2008 Olympic Summer

Games, we must hold the Chinese

Government accountable to act consistently

with the Olympic standard of

preserving human dignity around the

world, including in Darfur.

Once again, the international community

finds itself with another opportunity

to bring about real change in

Darfur. The resolution being passed by

the U.N. Security Council will only be

meaningful if measures with teeth are

included.

As John Prendergast, senior adviser

to the International Crisis Group, said

recently in testimony before Congress:

Time has run out for negotiations.

Time has run out for the Khartoum

Government to balk. Time has run out

for watered down U.N. Security Council

resolutions. We must get that hybrid

force on the ground. We must end

the genocide.

If ‘‘never again’’ is to have real

meaning, if those words we use are to

have real meaning, it has to have

strong action to stop the genocide,

strong action that history will judge as

among the righteous, anything less

will lend to our collective condemnation,

and to the ever-nagging conscience

that will not rest as others die.

That is the choice before the U.N. Security

Council. I am glad those of us

here are making our voices felt so,

hopefully, the Council will act and we

can have meaningful action to ‘‘never

again.’’