Mr. President, I rise

today to talk about the ongoing genocide

in Darfur. As my colleagues know,

the United Nations Security Council is

currently hammering out the final text

of a new resolution related to the expanded

United Nations African Union

hybrid force to protect civilians who

have been victims of genocide in

Darfur. This resolution represents the

best hope for the international community

to finally come together to put an

end to the violence in that country.

This new U.N. resolution reportedly

calls for a large increase in military

and police personnel to be deployed to

Darfur. It calls on member states to

make commitments to contribute

troops to the hybrid force, and for this

bolstered hybrid force UNAMID to take

command of the region by the end of

the year. Importantly, it also calls on

the Sudanese Government and all rebel

groups to enter into peace negotiations

to reach a political settlement which

will ultimately end the conflict in

Darfur.

If these reports are accurate, then we

may be one step closer to ending the

violence in Darfur. But in order to actually

stop the violence, we must ensure

that the hybrid force is large

enough to effectively carry out its mission,

and deployed quickly to stop the

violence immediately. These increased

forces are desperately needed to replace

the currently under-funded and

under- equipped paltry AU force of 7,000

soldiers presently in Darfur.

We simply cannot wait any longer to

protect the hundreds of thousands of

innocent civilians whose villages have

been burned, who have been driven into

refugee camps, and who have been

raped and murdered.

I welcome the calls of British Prime

Minister Gordon Brown and French

President Nicholas Sarkozy for the

United Nations to quickly adopt this

new draft resolution, and I appreciate

the leadership they have demonstrated

in personally committing to ensure

that the peace process moves forward,

once the U.N. resolution has passed.

Prime Minister Brown recently declared

that ‘‘this is one of the great humanitarian

disasters of our generation.

It is incumbent on the whole world to

act.’’ I wholeheartedly agree and I urge

President Bush to join with Prime Minister

Brown and President Sarkozy in

personally committing to ending the

conflict in Darfur.

Recent reports have also indicated

that the text of the resolution relating

to implementing multilateral sanctions

has been softened due to the objections

of some African member

states, as well as China.

While I strongly believe that robust

targeted sanctions should be implemented

against members of rebel

groups and the Sudanese Government,

that we should curb the Sudanese Government’s

access to oil revenues, increase

penalties on private companies

operating in Sudan, and allow for the

divestment of funds in Sudan, the sad

truth is that what is most needed now

from the international community is a

legitimate U.N. mandate for a

strengthened hybrid peacekeeping

force.

But there is no reason why the

United States can’t move forward to

implement unilateral sanctions against

Sudan, even if the international community

and the Bush administration

refuse to do so. As chairman of the

Banking Committee I have asked the

majority leader to expedite Senate

consideration and passage of S.831, The

Sudan Divestment Authorization Act

of 2007. The majority leader was prepared

to do so, but the minority objected.

I have also asked that the majority

leader to hold H.R. 180, the

Darfur Accountability and Divestment

Act of 2007, at the desk and attempt to

pass this bill prior to the August recess.

I am also planning to ask the majority

leader to expedite consideration

of S. 1563, the Sudan Disclosure and

Enforcement Act of 2007. These three

bills represent a good step towards applying

targeted economic pressure

against the Sudanese Government.

The implementation of robust and

targeted sanctions is long overdue. In

fact, the time to implement the sanctions

was 4 years ago, and it should

have been among the first components

of the administration’s Plan A, instead

of the last resort of its Plan B—a plan

which it has still failed to implement,

despite Special Envoy Andrew

Natsios’s assurances over 7 months

ago, back in January of 2007, that action

was imminent.

Sudan’s U.N. ambassador recently asserted

that the text of the new U.N. Security

Council resolution is ‘‘hostile’’

and full of ‘‘insinuations.’’ He further

declared that the language is ‘‘ugly’’

and ‘‘awful.’’ Ugly and awful? Ugly and

awful is the murder of 450,000 people in

Darfur and the displacement of 2.5 million

civilians. Ugly and awful is the Sudanese

President, Omar al-Bashir, after

his recent visit to Darfur, declaring

‘‘that most of Darfur is now secure and

enjoying real peace. People are living

normal lives,’’ he said. Ugly and awful

is the United States and the international

community waiting one day

longer to protect these innocent civilians.

The time for action is now. We must

not allow the Sudanese Government to

engage in anymore prevarication regarding

its acceptance of a hybrid

peacekeeping force. And we must ensure

that this new U.N. Security Council

resolution marks the beginning of

the end of genocide in Darfur, by mandating

the immediate deployment of a

robust