

The United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement (U.S. CLIMATE Act) of 2021

Threats from climate change are increasingly clear and present at home and abroad. Barring swift and ambitious action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, forecasts predict that the worst is yet to come. With so much at stake and so little time to act, climate change has become a central tenet in international affairs driving the agendas of many multilateral fora. President Biden's swift and essential action to repair four years of damage to U.S. climate policy puts the U.S. back on course to reasserting U.S. global climate leadership. **The United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement (U.S. CLIMATE) Act** is a bold course of action for Congress to take in support of new, thoughtful, and forward-looking leadership in the White House that will provide new tools and enhanced resources for improving U.S. climate action ambition.

The U.S. remains indispensable to the success of the global collaborative efforts.

The effort to mitigate climate risks, advance deployment of new clean energy technologies, and improve global climate security through building resilience and adaptation capacities presents limitless opportunities for economic growth, investment, and job creation for America. These benefits can only be realized if the U.S. actively reasserts itself as a global climate action leader.

It is entirely possible, and essential to U.S. economic and national security interests, for the U.S. to make up quickly for the lost time – and the U.S. CLIMATE Act provides the legal foundations for reasserting U.S. climate leadership.

Sec. 1. Short Title, Table of Contents

Sec. 2. Findings

This section states various findings on the increasingly apparent risk climate change poses to life on Earth; the commitment other nations are making to combat climate change; and opportunities the U.S. stands to gain from constructively reengaging in international efforts to combat climate change.

Sec. 3 Purpose.

States the objectives of the U.S. CLIMATE Act: 1) to demonstrate Congressional support and cooperation with executive branch effort to restore the U.S.'s indispensable leadership in global cooperative efforts to combat climate change; 2) to provide resources, authorities and support for enhancing the U.S.'s ambition and commitment to solving the climate crisis including climate action specific assistance and multilateral fund contributions ; 3) integrate considerations for climate change into broader U.S. foreign policy decision-making and the United States' national security apparatus; 4) to repair scorched diplomatic relationships and consider the pursuit of new bilateral and multilateral opportunities for advancing cooperative climate action;

Sec. 4. Definitions.

Definitions for various terms consistently used through the entirety of the Act including “climate action”, “climate crisis”, “climate security”, “net zero greenhouse gas emissions”, and “resilience”.

TITLE I – CLIMATE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Sec. 101. Climate Diplomacy.

Makes diplomatic engagement and climate action a central and crosscutting tenet of the State Department. Calls for greater coordination and integration of climate change diplomacy into United States’ missions around the world and charges the Secretary of State to desinate responsibilities for coordinating/facilitating the integration of climate action, diplomacy, and scientific data across the Department. Charges the Under Secretary for Political Affairs to ensure that each mission has a climate diplomacy strategy and to utilize resources within the Bureaus under E. Makes no change to current bureau structures.

Sec. 102. Enhancing United States Security Considerations for Global Climate Disruptions.

Calls for interagency coordination on the development of periodic evaluations and strategic planning on the evolving security risks associated with climate change, with special attention towards improving predicative capacities around future and evolving threats and instability through the integration and use of climate models and forecasting. The section also details a United States’ climate security strategy.

Sec. 105. Arctic Diplomacy

Includes a Sense of Congress that the rapidly changing Arctic environment and increased military activity poses new national and regional security challenges. Requires the United States to conduct periodic comprehensive evaluations of present and ongoing disruptions to the global climate system and account for global climate disruptions in National Security Planning. Directs the United States to develop a strategy for protecting national interests in the Arctic and establishes an Arctic Deputy Assistant Secretary within State’s OES Bureau.

TITLE II: INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress in Support of the United States Return to the Paris Agreement.

This section affirms support for the U.S. reentering the Paris Agreement, emphasizes the strategic case for the U.S. reengagement which includes the submission of an ambitious new Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement.

Sec. 202. Enhanced United States’ Commitment to the Paris Agreement.

Establishes the transparent development of a plan for creating a new NDC that puts the U.S. on a trajectory to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050. This section encourages the U.S. to use the Paris

Agreement's accountability mechanisms to hold countries like China and India accountable to their commitments and to ensure fairness and realize the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Sec. 203. Sense of Congress Regarding Ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

In October 2016, the U.S. supported adoption of an amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phasedown global use and production of hydrofluorocarbons. The U.S. has not acceded to the amendment. The Sense of the Congress urges the President to submit the Kigali Amendment to the Senate for advice and consent.

Sec. 204. Compliance with the Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme in International Aviation.

The U.S. supported the International Civil Aviation Organization's adoption of both the October 2016 Carbon Offset Scheme in International Aviation (CORSIA) and the June 2018 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for compliance with the CORSIA. This section grants authorities to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to comply with the CORSIA and SARPs.

Sec. 205. Short-Lived Climate Pollutants.

Establishes a policy and instructs U.S. representatives to multilateral institutions, and other U.S. diplomats, to use the voice and vote of the United States to advance international efforts to control short-lived and highly potent greenhouse gases including exploring the prospects of developing international agreements and reassessing targets in existing agreements to deal specifically with these pollutants.

Sec. 206. International Cooperation Regarding Clean Transportation and Sustainable Land Use and Community Development.

Globally, 30 percent of carbon emissions are generated from the transportation sector. Establishes a comprehensive set of policy objectives for the U.S. to pursue internationally to mitigate transportation sector emissions through zero emission vehicles and enhanced land use planning and development to reduce fossil fuel consumption. Instructs U.S. representatives to multilateral institutions, and other U.S. diplomats, to use the voice and vote of the United States to advance international efforts to advance clean transportation and land-use planning and development.

Sec. 207. Sense of Congress on United States Reengagement with the Group of Seven and Group of Twenty on Climate Action

Condemns the United States' disruptive and contrarian behavior towards the other members of the G7 and G20 on climate action cooperation, including the rejection of climate change communiqués and other cooperative efforts among the G7 and G20 to combat climate change. Requires that a China-focused agenda be initiated at the G7 and that a briefing on the progress of negotiations be provided by to Congress by the President. Includes a Sense of Congress declaring support for renewing U.S. engagement, cooperation and ambitious leadership on current and future climate actions of the G7 and G20.

TITLE III: CLIMATE CHANGE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND SUPPORT

Sec. 301. International Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Security Program.

Authorizes a successor foreign assistance program to the *Global Climate Change Initiative*. Would provide specific, supplemental (not supplanted) foreign assistance for clean energy, sustainable land use, and adaptation, but with considerable focus on building resilience capacities, improving food security and natural resource conservation, and ensuring that mitigation of transportation sector emissions are eligible activities. Contributions to multilateral funds, as well as bilateral regional assistance would be eligible to receive funds.

Sec. 302. United States Contributions to the Green Climate Fund.

Four year authorization of contributions to the Green Climate Fund. \$4,000,000,000 for the first two years – to fulfill the 2015 pledge, plus added amounts. \$2,000,000,000 for the last two years of the four year authorization. The section also makes clear that additional contributions are permissible from other foreign assistance accounts. Calls for the U.S. to lead efforts to institute critically needed oversight and accountability mechanisms within the Green Climate Fund, including holding managers and bureaucratic leaders within the organization to the highest standards of professional conduct.

Sec. 303. Sense of Congress on United States Engagements at the World Economic Forum.

Urges the Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, USAID Administrator, the CEO of the DFC to use the World Economic Forum to make ambitious climate finance commitments at the World Economic Forum.

Sec. 304. Clean Energy and the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

Calls for a report on the Development Finance Corporation's efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of its entire investment portfolio. Increases the ambition of the DFC's carbon cap to reach zero-emissions by 2028. Prioritizes projects in countries struggling with transitioning from carbon intensive electricity to clean energy.

Sec. 305. Consistency in United States Policy on Development Finance and Climate Change

Ensures U.S.'s engagement within multilateral International Financial Institution's aligns with U.S. policy to increase ambition on GHG emissions reductions and ultimately achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 (globally).

TITLE IV – CLEAN ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 401. Energy Diplomacy and Security within the Department of State.

Amends Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources in the Department of State to formulate and implement international policies to protect United States energy security interests and promote responsible global clean energy production.

Sec. 402. Reports on United States Participation in Mission Innovation and the Clean Energy Ministerial.

Directs the President to submit to Congress a report accounting for the U.S.'s engagements and agendas within both the Mission Innovation and the Clean Energy Ministerial.

Sec. 403. Reduced Deforestation.

Establishes a foreign assistance program focused on supporting sustainable forest management in developing countries to reduce forest degradation and deforestation and conserve forests (including wetland forests) for their carbon sequestration value and clear accounting procedures to avoid leakage and accurately measure carbon capture values. Includes prioritization of support for Indonesia.

**TITLE V – BILATERAL AND REGIONAL MULTILATERAL CLIMATE
DIPLOMACY AND COOPERATION**

Sec. 501. North American Strategy

Instructs the President to develop a strategy to seek opportunities for trilateral cooperation between the United States, Mexico, and Canada to support increased ambition on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advance collaboration on the development and promotion of shared climate action. Asks that the strategy ensure that potential projects and investments pursued under the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement (USMCA) are compatible with long-term climate goals and the collective targets set in the Paris Agreement and that the strategy explore shared and common interests and cooperative actions to promote clean energy development, climate security, and climate change mitigation strategies.

Sec. 502. Accountability and Cooperation with China.

Sense of Congress that climate change requires global cooperation, especially between the United States and China and that both countries should work together to undertake “parallel initiatives” to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, develop and deploy clean energy generation technologies, and integrate sustainable adaptation solutions. Instructs the United States and its allies to work together to hold China accountable for increasing the ambition of its 2030 nationally determined contribution, eliminating greenhouse gas intensive projects from its Belt and Road Initiative, and avoiding efforts that undermine the Paris Agreement’s underlying framework.

Sec. 503. United States and European Union Cooperation on Climate Finance for Developing Countries.

Sense of Congress restoring the historic alliance between the United States and countries of the European Union on climate action and renewing the commitment to advancing shared values, principles, and goals to advance global cooperation on addressing climate change and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Establishes a discretionary clean energy development finance fund partnership between the DFC and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Amends the SEED Act to include support Eastern European workers and communities in countries grappling with transitioning

from fossil fuel dependent economies to clean energy. Establishes a formal United States-European Commission Working Group to develop a strategy to respond to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Sec. 504. Sense of Congress on Clean Energy Cooperation with India.

Sense of Congress on steps the U.S. should take to reinvigorate bilateral cooperation with India on research development and investment in clean energy technology. Compliments S.4759.

Sec. 505. Power Africa.

Authorizes the Power Africa program and gives Power Africa a clear clean energy mandate. Amends Section 7 of the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 to add a Coordinator for Power Africa in the Department of State that will lead the implementation of the Power Africa program.

Sec. 506. Caribbean Energy Initiative.

Authorizes the Caribbean Energy Initiative and gives the program a clear clean energy and energy security mandate.

Sec. 507. Sense of Congress on Conservation of the Amazon River Basin.

Sense of Congress expressing support for U.S. assistance in conserving the Amazon Rainforest, directing the President and Ambassador of the United States to Brazil to engage with the Government of Brazil, and noting the significance of protecting the Amazon Rainforest for its carbon sequestration value Includes a policy statement encouraging the Secretary of State to elevate bilateral engagements around cooperation and peer-to-peer accountability on Brazil's climate action commitments. Provides support for the voice of Brazilian civil society to hold the government and commercial interests accountable for protecting Brazil's natural resources.

Sec. 508. Sense of Congress Regarding Renewable Energy in Indonesia.

Sense of Congress and Statement of Policy that supports cooperation and collaboration on renewable energy generation in Indonesia and establishes that it is U.S. policy to work with Indonesia to enhance renewable integration and power system operation.

TITLE VI – WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACT

Sec. 601. Short Title.

Sec. 602. Findings.

Findings on the critical role women play in society and how the effects of climate change impact women and girls disproportionately around the world.

Sec. 603. Definitions

Sec. 604. Statement of Policy.

Establishes that it is U.S. policy to give special consideration for the unique and disproportionate impact the effects of climate change has on women and to ensure that women and girls are represented and listened to regarding international development and diplomacy on climate change. Establishes a Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally.

Sec. 605. Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.

Provides structure and specifies representatives on the Working Group. Creates the functions of the Working Group, which are centered on interagency coordination and strategy development for addressing the specific challenges climate change poses to women and girls around the world.

Sec. 606. Development and Implementation of Strategy and Policies to Prevent and Respond to the Effects of Climate Change on Women Globally.

Calls for the development of a strategy and details some required elements, goals and guardrails for the strategy – mostly centered on fulfilling the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, and charges the Ambassador at-large, or the special coordinator appointed pursuant to section 607, in consultation with the Working Group, to facilitate the development of the strategy.

Sec. 607. Climate Change Within the Office of Global Women’s Issues.

Establishes the Ambassador at-large of the Office of Global Women’s Issues as the chair of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change and details actions and responsibility related to Climate Change’s effects on Women within the Office of Global Women’s Issues.