



# Position paper of the United States of America



## **TOPIC A: IMPROVE THE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS**

The United States has made significant progress in regards to investment and action for climate change. Our total emissions are now lower than they were in 2007. America is the second highest emitter however we also have the second highest investment in renewable energy. The U.S. was also a signatory to the Copenhagen Accord.

In June 2017, President Donald Trump announced United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and we will therefore not ratify the NDC, although the exit process specified by the treaty (which Trump said the U.S. would follow) will last until at least November 4, 2020. Although there is concern about our withdrawal we would like to point out that this doesn't signal the end of climate action in the U.S. In response to President Trump's announcement over 2300 cities, states, tribes, businesses, and universities have signed an open letter pledging to "support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement" through the "We Are Still In" campaign (representing over 23% of the population). Research suggests that the full implementation of current recorded and quantified non-federal climate commitments could already take the U.S. halfway toward meeting its NDC commitments.

There is still powerful climate action within the U.S, it simply will not be enacted on the federal level. Therefore it will be a state-level decision to execute the previously agreed NDC.

## **TOPIC B: NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS**

The Green Climate Fund is of importance for supporting developing countries to tackle climate change challenges, but the fund is unbeneficial for the U.S. economy and interests. We have pledged \$3 billion to the fund which is much more than other countries, as much as the double amount than the second country on the list. The U.S. has contributed \$1 billion which we think is enough, and that others now have to do their part. It is not beneficial for the U.S. economy to continue contributing to the fund and now we need to focus on our own economy and to reshape the nation's environmental laws in ways that benefit our people. Instead, we will support the climate change challenges for developing countries, such as loss and damage, in other ways. This will be done on our own terms and with focus on technological, financial and capacity-building ways. Through agencies such as the USAID the United States allocated \$15.6 billion in climate finance between 2010 and 2015. These finances focused on clean energy, adaptation and sustainable landscape activities. There are also non-government organisations undertaking climate action and reforestation projects such as the Nature Conservancy's 'plant a billion trees project'. Once again, the private and government sectors are taking action, and the U.S. has donated significant amounts to international development.

In summary, our government has a strong belief that climate action should and will be the responsibility of the state level government, private sector and non-government organisations. The U.S. cannot continue to fund both international aid and climate action projects without financial or technological support from other parties with our current level of debt.