

***People's Climate Covenant
Towards Paris 2015***

Affirming our dedication to Life in all its forms; a commitment to its preservation and defense; the overwhelming scientific and empirical evidence of a planetary emergency; the growing peril for all of Earth's inhabitants; the moral imperative and practical obligation to assure the continuance of life on the planet;

Recognizing the urgent need to achieve deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), we commit to 40% reductions by 2025 (27% of 1990 levels) and 60% by 2030 (48% of 1990 levels), on a pathway towards 85% reductions of 2005 levels by mid-century.

Conscious of our role as a major emitter of harmful emissions, we shall now take bold steps to balance and redeem our historical actions by effecting ambitious cuts as required by science to avert irreversible, catastrophic climate changes looming on the horizon.

Noting with grave concern the approximate 50% gap between the sum of national pledges and emissions reductions necessary to maintain the agreed-upon average global temperature rise under 2°C, we urge *all* major emitters to redouble their efforts prior to the year 2020, with a view towards sustained reductions leading to a peak and subsequent decline in emissions no later than 2020. Likewise, we urge all developing nations to hold emissions to current levels and seek to transition to low-carbon, renewable energy sources over the next decade.

Underscoring the most recent scientific assessments indicating that global temperature rise must not exceed 1.5°C in order to ensure climate stability —while current trends are tracking towards a dangerous 4°C rise— we will make strenuous efforts to remain under the 1.5°C target.

Acknowledging that developing nations bear little responsibility for the problem, suffer the greatest impacts, and possess insufficient resources to cope and/or modify their situation, we commit to assisting them in the following ways:

Adaptation / Loss and Damage

In accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), of which the United States is a signatory, we commit to protecting citizens and ecosystems at home and in vulnerable nations by 1) enhancing knowledge and cooperation in risk management and providing financial assistance in cases of extreme and slow onset climate events, and 2) assisting in mitigation efforts through support for the transition from fossil fuels to low-carbon, renewable energy in the form of technology development and transfer, information-sharing,

capacity-building, and financial resources to enable peoples to address the adverse effects of climate change, adapt to changing conditions, build resilience, and achieve societal equity.

Finance

To accomplish these goals, the United States shall provide an additional \$3 billion dollars in calendar year 2015, with subsequent contributions of \$5 billion annually between 2020-2025, in compliance with the global commitment by industrialized nations in the 2009 UN Copenhagen Accord to begin providing annual climate finance of USD 100 billion by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries in mitigation and adaptation.

Agreeing that each Party's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) towards achieving the goals of the Convention shall represent a progression beyond its current undertaking, we submit the following policy program:

Presidential Campaign for an Energy Revolution

The President of the United States shall lead a program of education and action among the citizenry regarding the severity of the crisis and the need for a shift in mindset and consumption patterns. The major emphases will include but not be limited to: conservation, elimination of wasteful energy use, across-the-board energy efficiency standards, ending subsidies for the fossil fuel industry, a revenue-neutral fee on carbon, phase-out of fossil fuel use and shift to renewables, changes in industrial agriculture system, reforestation, restructured energy production and distribution, social equality, lifestyle changes in accord with planetary health, and re-instill respect and reverence for the natural world that sustains us.

The **Energy Revolution** will be economy-wide; we possess the technology but must now muster the political will. Promotion and support for carbon trading offsets and similar policies that do not effectively reduce emissions shall be suspended. Given his unique position, the president shall mobilize public support for this program and exercise the full power of his office to prioritize the well-being of the nation's people over and above private interests.

Legal Force

This **Covenant** shall serve as the basis for the official U.S. position at the Paris 2015 UNFCCC negotiations, as a faithful representation of the will of U.S. citizens, and for leadership in seeking incorporation of its principles into the forthcoming Treaty, to be legally binding for all Parties, and subject to Monitoring, Review and Verification. By law, the president possesses the authority to enter into international agreements that commit the nation, should such an Accord be approved.

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