

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9003

To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to address the global climate change crisis, improve the energy and resource efficiency of the Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2020

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to address the global climate change crisis, improve the energy and resource efficiency of the Department, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Climate Change Diplo-
5 macy and Development Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The planet risks increasingly catastrophic
4 impacts unless global average temperatures are lim-
5 ited to no more than 2° C, aiming for 1.5° C above
6 preindustrial levels.

7 (2) According to the Intergovernmental Panel
8 on Climate Change’s Special Report on 1.5° C, lim-
9 iting warming to no more than 1.5° C requires fast
10 mitigation of both CO₂ and non-CO₂ climate pollut-
11 ants, as well as the protection and expansion of for-
12 ests and other sinks that remove and store CO₂,
13 along with other strategies for removing CO₂ and
14 other climate pollutants.

15 (3) Forced displacement and forced migration
16 are increasingly caused or exacerbated by environ-
17 mental changes and climate-induced disruptions.

18 (4) The United National Human Rights Coun-
19 cil has recognized that climate change poses an exis-
20 tential threat that has already had a negative impact
21 on the fulfillment of human rights.

22 (5) To have a chance at limiting warming to
23 1.5° C and avoiding increasingly severe impacts from
24 climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Cli-
25 mate Change (IPCC) concluded that global net an-
26 thropogenic carbon dioxide emissions must fall by 45

1 percent from global 2010 levels by 2030 and reach
2 net-zero by 2050.

3 (6) Failure to act on the climate crisis leads to
4 higher levels of warming and exposes all regions of
5 the world to potentially catastrophic insecurity and
6 destabilization that could cause a breakdown of
7 economies, social systems, and political institutions
8 in ways that are likely irreversible. It is in the inter-
9 est of the United States to place a high priority on
10 strengthening the global response to the threat of
11 climate change.

12 (7) United States leadership and ingenuity are
13 central to solving the climate crisis. The United
14 States must act urgently, guided by science, and in
15 concert with the international community to signifi-
16 cantly reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts,
17 and drive progress through international negotia-
18 tions to maintain a livable climate for today and fu-
19 ture generations.

20 (8) The United States can also build strong sci-
21 entific and security partnerships and reinforce the
22 United States ability to lead on other key global pri-
23 orities through climate diplomacy. These efforts can
24 foster climate security while creating new opportuni-

1 ties for United States leadership, economic growth,
2 and innovation.

3 (9) The United States is a Party to the United
4 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
5 (referred to in this Act as the “Convention”), as
6 agreed to by the advice and consent of the Senate
7 on October 7, 1992, and should remain actively en-
8 gaged in the Convention.

9 (10) In Paris, on December 12, 2015, parties
10 to the Convention reached a landmark agreement to
11 strengthen the global response to the threat of cli-
12 mate change by keeping a global temperature rise
13 well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial lev-
14 els and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature in-
15 crease even further to 1.5° C.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that the United States should—

18 (1) utilize multilateral and bilateral foreign as-
19 sistance to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient de-
20 velopment, including supporting greater participa-
21 tion of women in the development and implementa-
22 tion of climate policies that are gender-responsive;
23 and

1 (2) advance clean energy and climate resilience
2 through budgeting and operations of United States
3 Government facilities abroad.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ADAPTATION.**—The term “adaptation”
7 means an adjustment in natural or human systems
8 to a new or changing environment that exploits ben-
9 eficial opportunities or moderates negative effects.

10 (2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
11 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs
13 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
14 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
15 Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of
16 the Senate.

17 (3) **CLEAN ENERGY.**—The term “clean energy”
18 means any electricity generation, transmission, stor-
19 age, heating, cooling, industrial process, or manufac-
20 turing project the primary purpose of which is the
21 deployment, development, or production of an energy
22 system or technology that avoids, significantly re-
23 duces, or sequesters emissions of greenhouse gas and
24 other pollutants.

1 (4) CLIMATE CHANGE.—The term “climate
2 change” means anthropogenic changes in average
3 weather conditions that persist over multiple decades
4 or longer, and encompasses both increases and de-
5 creases in temperature, as well as shifts in precipita-
6 tion, changing risk of certain types of severe weather
7 events, and changes to other features of the climate
8 system.

9 (5) CLIMATE SECURITY.—The term “climate
10 security” has the meaning given such term in sec-
11 tion 120 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50
12 U.S.C. 3060).

13 (6) MITIGATION.—The term “mitigation”
14 means measures to reduce the amount or speed of
15 future climate change, including by reducing emis-
16 sions of heat-trapping gases or removing carbon di-
17 oxide from the atmosphere.

18 (7) RESILIENT.—The term “resilient” means
19 the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to,
20 or recover from significant multihazard threats with
21 minimum damage to social well-being, health, the
22 economy, or the environment.

1 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLO-**
2 **MACY AND DEVELOPMENT.**

3 (a) STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
5 in coordination with the Administrator of the United
6 States Agency for International Development (USAID),
7 shall—

8 (1) develop, in consultation with the Secretary
9 of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Office
10 of the Director of National Intelligence, the heads of
11 any other relevant Federal departments or agencies,
12 and domestic and international civil society and or-
13 ganizations with experience researching or imple-
14 menting policies and programs dealing with the cli-
15 mate crisis a “Joint Department of State and
16 USAID Strategy to Address the Global Climate
17 Change Crisis” (in this section referred to as the
18 “Strategy”);

19 (2) designate the Department of State’s Bureau
20 for Oceans and International Environmental and
21 Scientific Affairs to coordinate Department and
22 USAID efforts to guide United States foreign policy
23 related to global climate change in order to—

24 (A) confront risks to United States na-
25 tional security, including geopolitical, commer-

1 cial, economic, environmental, financial, and
2 health interests;

3 (B) advance United States prosperity; and

4 (C) restore United States leadership
5 through climate change diplomacy; and

6 (3) submit to the appropriate congressional
7 committees the Strategy.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy developed pursuant to
9 subsection (a) shall at a minimum—

10 (1) include an assessment of the global threat
11 of climate change, including geographic or country
12 prioritization based on the assessed threat to the
13 United States and its allies;

14 (2) identify Department of State and USAID
15 goals, objectives, and priorities for United States
16 policy on climate change to protect United States
17 national security (including the interests specified in
18 subsection (a)(2)(A)), including—

19 (A) examining how the United States will
20 engage diplomatically and utilize foreign assist-
21 ance to ensure parties to the United Nations
22 Framework Convention on Climate Change col-
23 lectively move toward a pathway consistent with
24 holding the increase in the global average tem-
25 perature to well below 2° C above pre-industrial

1 levels and pursuing efforts to limit the tempera-
2 ture increase to 1.5° C above pre-industrial lev-
3 els, taking into account each country's domestic
4 circumstances and capabilities;

5 (B) outlining an approach to utilize multi-
6 lateral and bilateral foreign assistance to pro-
7 mote low-carbon, climate-resilient development;

8 (C) integrating into diplomatic fora and
9 development programs issues related to gender
10 and the impacts of climate change on the most
11 vulnerable countries and communities;

12 (D) articulating guidelines for inter-
13 national finance flows consistent with a path-
14 way toward low greenhouse gas emissions and
15 climate-resilient development;

16 (E) mobilizing public and private sector fi-
17 nance to support low-carbon, climate-resilient
18 development, including through the Green Cli-
19 mate Fund; and

20 (F) reflecting the input of other executive
21 branch agencies, as appropriate;

22 (3) describe the coordination mechanisms with-
23 in the Department of State and USAID, including
24 diplomatic missions, for developing and imple-
25 menting efforts to advance United States global cli-

1 mate change foreign policy, including with regard to
2 climate security policy, conflict mitigation, economic
3 policy, and geographic policy parameters;

4 (4) describe how the Department of State plans
5 to build on any existing frameworks, policies, or pro-
6 grams to—

7 (A) adapt or expand existing Department
8 programs, projects, activities, or policy instru-
9 ments based on existing authorities for the spe-
10 cific purpose of addressing or mitigating the ef-
11 fects of global climate change;

12 (B) consider how compliance with inter-
13 national climate agreements affects the global
14 economy, including in terms of employment,
15 trade, and investment; and

16 (C) identify the need for any new Depart-
17 ment programs, projects, activities, or policy in-
18 struments for the specific purpose of addressing
19 or mitigating the effects of global climate
20 change and describe the steps and resources
21 necessary to establish such programs, projects,
22 activities, or instruments, noting whether such
23 steps or resources would require new statutory
24 authorities; and

1 (5) demonstrate how the President’s Budget for
2 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs
3 (SFOPs) allocates resources in support of the Strat-
4 egy, including for Department of State and USAID
5 operations and foreign assistance programs, includ-
6 ing security assistance.

7 (c) FORM.—The Strategy shall be submitted in an
8 unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, if
9 appropriate.

10 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than three months
11 after the submission of the Strategy, the Secretary of
12 State and Administrator of USAID shall begin imple-
13 menting the Strategy.

14 (e) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 90 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act and not less often
16 than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State and Ad-
17 ministrator of USAID shall jointly consult with the appro-
18 priate congressional committees regarding the develop-
19 ment and implementation of the strategy.

20 (f) CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY REPORTING RE-
21 QUIREMENT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days
23 after the submission of the Strategy and annually
24 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the
25 appropriate congressional committees a report that

1 outlines progress that the Department of State and
2 USAID have made regarding implementation of the
3 Strategy.

4 (2) FORM.—The reports required under para-
5 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
6 but may include a classified annex, if appropriate.

7 **SEC. 5. CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS BUDGETING AND OPER-**
8 **ATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND**
9 **UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTER-**
10 **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

11 The Secretary of State shall include in the annual
12 budget submission of the President under section 1105(a)
13 of title 31, United States Code—

14 (1) a dedicated budget line item for adaptation
15 to, and mitigation of, climate-related risks to De-
16 partment of State assets and capabilities;

17 (2) a dedicated budget line item to improve the
18 sustainability and climate resilience of the Depart-
19 ment’s global operations, including reducing the De-
20 partment’s carbon footprint through enhanced en-
21 ergy efficiency and water efficiency, as well as utili-
22 zation of clean energy sources; and

23 (3) an estimate of the anticipated adverse im-
24 pacts to the readiness of the Department and
25 USAID and the financial costs to the Department

1 and USAID during the year covered by the budget
2 of the loss of, or damage to, Department assets and
3 capabilities as a result of climate change.

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