



21st November, 2010

*For the purpose of the international conference held by the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, The United States of America are expressing its attitude towards Draft no. 2 as followed:*

### **Is it going to take a global environmental crisis?**

In 21st century everyone solves important problems. International organizations, governments and individuals deal with many issues on every-day basis. The key to handle it successfully is to set priorities. It is necessary to choose the most serious task and put the best effort to it. Importance is very deep expression. For each subject it means something different. But in the global world and under contemporary climate conditions, all players participating in global economy agree that climate changes and environment as a whole should be discussed on one of the first places at hierarchy of global issues. Environmental challenges like climate changes, preserving biodiversity and energy efficiency, are the most urgent questions, which should not wait any longer to be left aside. Only by solving mentioned problems can be the other, social, political and economic issues, resolved.

The key word, or better the key sentence, for this conference, should be: *“Our actions influence us globally.”* Every human activity has an impact on all other human activities, and unfortunately, it influences the “weaker” members of society, in our case the developing countries. So the common effort of all member of Environmental Section is to find effective tools for solving climate changes, reducing the capacity of water resources and desertification, emissions trading and new technologies research and non-waste economy.

### **Emissions reduction**

The entire world is waiting for the outcomes of the Cancun conference in December 2010. The task of the members of Environmental section should be to reach an agreement on emissions reduction for the next years which will create a ground for the Cancun Conference.

Each participant of the Environmental section is familiar with the fact that nations should limit temperature rises to less than 2 degrees Celsius. Developed nations should cut their collective greenhouse gas emissions by 80 % by 2050 compared to 1990. There are scientific proofs that increase in the global average temperature of more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels cause many risks to human health and natural system. Sustained warming can lead to the extinction of several species and melting of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets which raise global sea level between 12 and 40 feet. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS USA), *to have reasonable chance of preventing temperatures*





*from rising above this level, we must stabilize the concentration of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere at or below 450 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent.<sup>1</sup>*

As Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century proposes to the Environmental section negotiators, *to elaborate the possible cooperation strategy that would bind the participants to reduce their green house gases emissions by 35 % by 2020 to the 1990 levels.* According to the UNFCCC – Quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020, the countries committed themselves to 20 – 30 % maximum of green house gases emissions. So the goal of all members of world economy, regardless to whether they are developed or developing countries, should be to put the best effort to fulfill the existing targets from previous conference at first (for example USA assumed to 17 % reduction in 2020 and 30 % reduction in 2025). So the middle course can be the slower steps better than big and rush targets which are not ready yet to be accomplished.

Concerning the Forum's for the 21<sup>st</sup> century *commitment of non-OECD countries to aim for the maximum of 5 % increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion per capita in the time period 2010-2020,* the USA accept the attitude, and propose similar approach of decreasing in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion per capita as much as possible, to developed countries too.

### Technology transfer mechanism

Participating countries of Copenhagen Accord agreed on establishing of a Technology Mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer in support of action on adaptation and mitigation that will be guided by a country driven approach and be based on national circumstances and priorities.<sup>2</sup> Based on Clean Development Mechanism, the USA demand for a market mechanism similar to the Joint Implementation Scheme but with the developing countries. Developed countries shall provide sustainable technology, financial resources and capacity building to implement adaptation actions in developing countries. The aim is to transfer new technologies from the developed countries to the developing countries. So the key is the cooperation between these “two worlds.”

Based on the declaration of the Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, *developed countries need to help in negotiating with the licensing companies for the licensing terms to be more flexible for the developing countries,* the members of the section should find a common way, how to help developing countries in protection of intellectual property rights. The problem is that minority of developing countries are able to implement democracy in their policies. The USA

<sup>1</sup> 450 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>eq—a measurement that expresses the concentration of all heat-trapping gases in terms of CO<sub>2</sub>

Source: <[http://www.ucsusa.org/global\\_warming/solutions/big\\_picture\\_solutions/a-target-for-us-emissions.html#Dividing\\_Up\\_the\\_Work](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/big_picture_solutions/a-target-for-us-emissions.html#Dividing_Up_the_Work)>

<sup>2</sup> Copenhagen Accord, Item 11, pg. 7





proposes to overcome market and economic barriers of developing countries, for example by making lectures or providing materials about democracy and protection of intellectual property rights. The USA and other developed countries dispose financial and technological capacity and it can be the way how to improve whole situation in developing countries. In developed as well as in developing countries, the governments should be flexible, the work should be organized in an effective manner, and the texts should be at manageable size.

### Reforestation

The next issue of facing the climate change and global warming as well is the deforestation and forest degradation. The problem concerns all participants who are interested in sustainable development and the negotiators should find a simple and possible answer on helping developing countries to build better forest management, and thereby decrease global greenhouse gas emissions.

The USA provides 100 billion dollars as financial climate aid for developing countries to install clean energy technologies. U.S. aid is tied to monitoring, information and verification of handling with money in third countries. UN-REDD program or Forest Investment program have their own budgets and provide not only money but information too, give advice and share experience with developing countries. Possibly, developed countries should form more programs to stop degradation and converting forests to plantations, and provide more financial support to these programs. The *Global Forest Carbon Mechanism* makes sufficient opportunity to reward developing countries for taking actions to reduce forest degradation and deforestation. The question is, if this is a sufficient method of participating developed countries on dropping deforestation practices in developing countries.

### Biodiversity

All countries should cooperate and agree that sustaining of biodiversity is one of the most significant global issues and should not be left aside. Rapid environmental changes cause extinctions. The number of species of plants, animals and microorganisms, the enormous diversity of genes in these species, the different ecosystems on the planet, such as deserts, rainforests and coral reefs are all part of a biologically diverse Earth.

Countries should deal with degradation of biodiversity and implement strategies and move them to national and transnational level. The USA agrees that conservation program to stop degradation of biodiversity should be included to national biodiversity strategies by 2015, and evaluating it by 2020. Nations should also control existing strategies and supervise the maintenance of them.





### **Water resources**

Countries should not take care only of those water resources which they have on their territory. The problem of water concerns every living organism. So the protection of water resources is an obvious phrase. We should find mechanisms and strategies to protect existing water resources and their purity. The USA accepts the idea of Forum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century about the meetings of experts of water management organizations with the individuals responsible for water management in their governing bodies. The USA have built collecting systems for wastewater and wastewater treatments, and all nations should implement these regulations to their legislations.

### **Energy efficiency**

Countries should use cleaner energy sources and try to find renewable energy. The U.S. Department of Energy develops renewable energy technologies, practices and product for homes. More than 42 thousands of American homes are participating in the program. The climate specific designs, super efficient walls, foundations, windows, and roofs, passive solar heating and cooling, solar thermal and solar electric systems, and etc. are proof that the USA tries to use newest technologies which are cleaner. The task for developed countries should be giving information and sharing experience with developing countries about using modern technologies and renewable sources of energy. Other mean of improving energy efficiency could be taking personal action. It means, spreading edification about how to reduce personal contribution to global warming, for example when buying a car- choosing one that is highly fuel efficient, or instead of driving- walking or biking, developing a plan to reduce daily electricity use around ones home, etc.

The USA would like to thank the Forum for the 21st Century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on global environmental issues. At the same time we express our full support towards solving the challenges occurring in the new global scenario. After an in-depth analysis of the draft proposed by the Forum for the 21st century let us include our suggestions as well. The USA stresses that it supports all efforts to take part in making the global situation's performance more effective and that it sees the most important issues in assecuration of collective security in the 21st century.





# The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

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