

Press Releases: Outcome of the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
December 15, 2018

The United States participated in COP24 to protect U.S. interests, advance a level playing field for U.S. business, and promote the U.S. balanced approach to economic growth, energy security, and environmental protection. Judith Garber, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) at the U.S. Department of State, served as head of the U.S. delegation and delivered the [U.S. National Statement](#). The United States expresses its appreciation to Poland for its hospitality, excellent preparation, and leadership at COP24, which concluded in Katowice on December 15, 2018.

The Administration's position on the Paris Agreement remains unchanged. On June 1, 2017, the President [announced](#) the United States intends to withdraw from the Paris Agreement absent terms more favorable to the American people.

During COP24, the United States highlighted its balanced approach that promotes economic growth, improves energy security, and protects the environment. This balanced approach is gaining traction with pragmatic partner countries who recognize we can protect economic growth and energy security while preserving the environment.

U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions have fallen by 14 percent since 2005, even as the U.S. economy has grown by 19.4 percent. This world-leading achievement and a diverse energy portfolio is possible thanks to early stage research and development and private sector finance and innovation. As U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently [said](#), "In America... [w]e've unleashed our energy companies to innovate and compete. And our carbon emissions have declined dramatically."

The United States takes note of the negotiated outcome and appreciates the hard work of our negotiators. The outcome took a significant step toward

holding our economic competitors accountable for reporting their emissions in a manner consistent with standards the United States has met since 1992. The United States is not taking on any burdens or financial pledges in support of the Paris Agreement and will not allow climate agreements to be used as a vehicle to redistribute wealth. We will work with our many partner countries to innovate and deploy a broad array of technologies that promote economic growth, improve energy security, and protect the environment.

For press inquiries, please contact ClimateComms@state.gov.

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