Global Climate Change Threats

The consequences of climate change are dire for vulnerable people and countries around the world, exacerbating pre-existing challenges like food insecurity and competition for land, water, and natural resources. These in turn increase the danger of humanitarian crises and the risk of conflicts that can threaten regional and global security. American leadership in international engagement is crucial to addressing the climate crisis. Unfortunately, President Trump has started the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement and squandered America’s influence on global clean energy and climate solutions.

RESTORE AMERICA’S LEADERSHIP ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Solving the climate crisis must be a priority for the United States in our multilateral, bilateral, international development, and humanitarian efforts. By supporting climate-smart development and partnering with countries on climate solutions, the United States can help countries address their own circumstances and foster partnerships that have economic, environmental, and security benefits for all.

CONGRESS SHOULD:

Meet the U.S. commitment to the Green Climate Fund by contributing the necessary funds.

Address the humanitarian and security impacts of climate change through expanded programs at the State Department, USAID, and the Peace Corps.

Anticipate and prevent climate-related national security threats by including climate risks in the State Department Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.

Provide formal protections to climate-displaced persons and increase the numbers admitted into the United States per year.

Advance international climate resilience by developing a Global Climate Resilience Strategy and increasing foreign aid through U.S. international development finance programs.

Empower women and girls to pursue climate change solutions by establishing a Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change within the State Department.

Reduce black carbon pollution through additional State Department and EPA efforts.

Stop international deforestation and forest degradation through innovative investments and financing of international forest conservation and restoration.

Improve Arctic diplomacy and engagement by establishing an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs to lead U.S. Arctic policy formulation and development.