



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 2021

His Excellency
Iván Duque
President of the Republic of Colombia
Bogota

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American people, I send my best wishes to you and the people of Colombia as we continue our shared fight to turn the tide on the suffering and loss inflicted by this pandemic. My heart goes out to all the Colombian families and communities who have been touched by tragedy in this crisis. But even as we fight COVID-19 and seek to build our economies back better and stronger, we must not fail to also address the looming existential threat of climate change.

I write today to invite you to participate in a virtual Leaders Summit on Climate on April 22 and 23, 2021, which will bring together the leaders of the world's major economies and other vital partners for an urgent and open dialogue on ways to strengthen our collective efforts to confront the climate crisis.

The world is already experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change. Science makes clear that unless we dramatically scale up our efforts over the course of this decade, we will condemn future generations to incalculable harm. It is incumbent on us as leaders to do all within our power to stem this rising global threat.

That is why one of my very first actions as President was to return the United States to the Paris Agreement, the framework embraced by all countries to guide our collective climate efforts. But we all must step up and do more if we are to ensure the Agreement's success. I am fully committed to working with you to strengthen global climate ambition heading into the U.N. Climate Change Conference this November in Glasgow. Our guiding aim must be to keep within reach the vital goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

By the time of the Leaders Summit, the United States will put forward an ambitious climate target for 2030 as our new nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement. I urge you to also come to the Summit prepared to share how your government will contribute to keeping the 1.5 degree Celsius goal within reach.

The Summit will reconvene the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, which brings together the 17 countries responsible for nearly 80 percent of global emissions to seek common ground on climate solutions. To ensure the Summit includes other voices critical to understanding and meeting this urgent challenge, I am also inviting the heads of additional countries who are demonstrating strong climate leadership, are especially vulnerable to climate impacts, or are charting innovative pathways to a net-zero economy.

Our discussions will focus both on the challenge of decarbonizing the global economy and on the urgent need to help vulnerable countries adapt to unavoidable climate impacts. We will examine strategies to mobilize stronger public and private sector financing and the transformative technologies that can usher in the sustainable industries of the future. We also will highlight the economic and job creation benefits of climate action, in both our near-term recovery efforts and the decades ahead, and the need to ensure that these benefits are widely shared. We will be joined in some sessions by civil society and business leaders.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Leaders Summit on Climate, and to hearing your plans for delivering more ambitious climate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.