



# Next Steps on Climate: United States

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# The Paris Agreement – Key Features

## *Universal and Nationally-Driven*

- Builds on post-2020 targets submitted by 188 countries
- All countries to submit nationally determined targets on a level playing field
- A modern, forward-looking approach to differentiate countries based on capacity, not based on outdated lists of developed and developing countries

## *High Ambition*

- Strengthens temperature goal limit warming to “well below” 2 degrees, making efforts to get to 1.5 degrees
- Peak global emissions as soon as possible, rapid reductions thereafter
- Achieve climate-neutrality of the global economy in the second half of the century

## *Durable Long-Term Framework*

- Five-year target cycles, including review of 2030 targets in 2020
- In each cycle, each country’s target needs to be more ambitious than the last, reflecting the highest possible ambition
- Five-year global stock-takes starting in 2018 to assess the strength of overall efforts
- Sends a strong long-term market signal that we’re locked into a global low-carbon transformation

## *Strong Accountability*

- Binding transparency requirements for both developed and developing countries
- Frequent reporting on emissions using internationally agreed standards
- Tracking progress towards targets by all countries every two years
- Robust expert and multilateral review of progress and achievement of targets

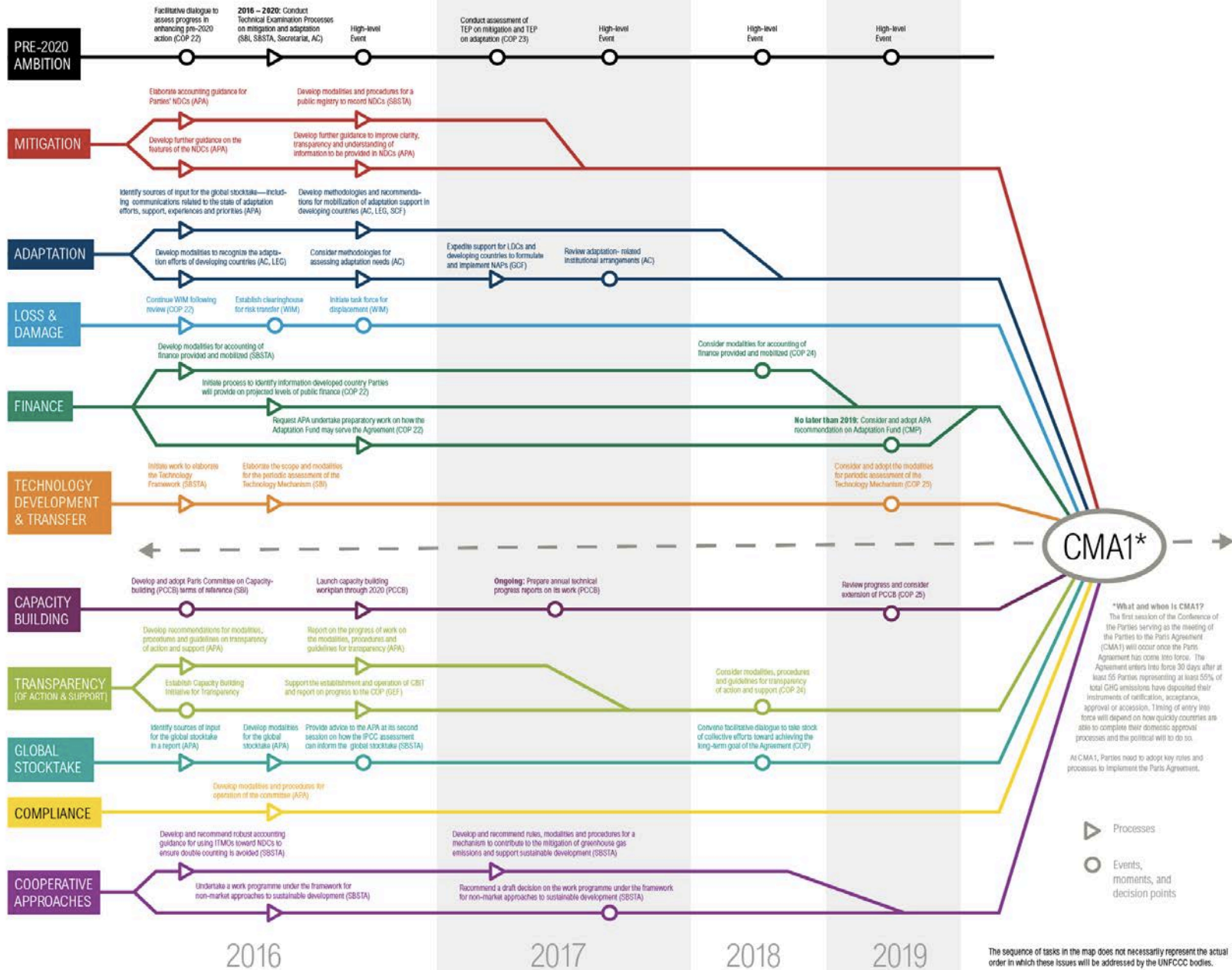
## *Supports the Poorest and Most Vulnerable*

- Strong focus on mobilizing public and private climate finance beyond 2020
- Encourages expansion of the donor base going forward
- New focus on technology innovation and R&D
- Strong focus on supporting adaptation, which is critical for the poorest and most vulnerable countries

## Three Avenues for Action Post-Paris

- Operationalize international framework
- Deliver on targets and commitments
- Focus on longer term goal setting





The sequence of tasks in the map does not necessarily represent the actual order in which these issues will be addressed by the UNFCCC bodies.

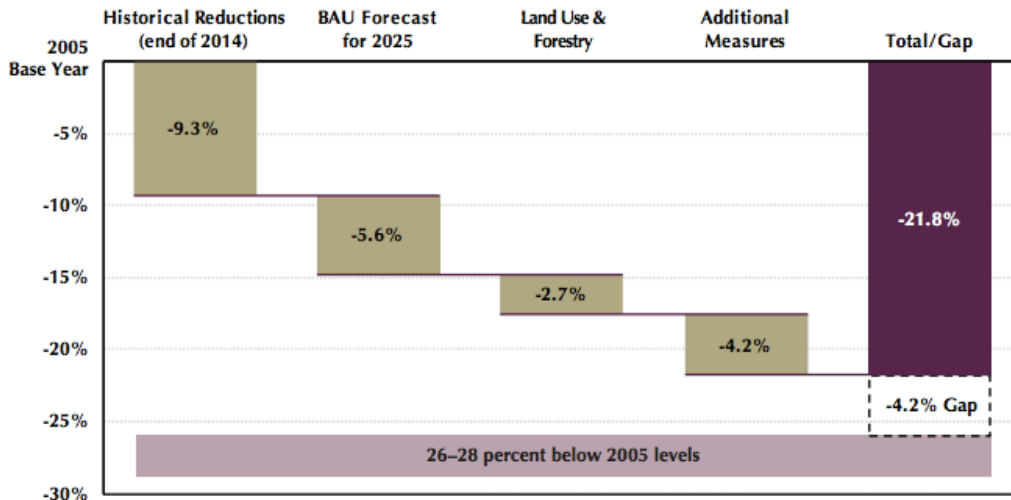
## United States: Climate Action Plan (2013)

Mitigation	Adaptation	International Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Deploy clean energy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean Power Plan</li> <li>- RE incentives</li> <li>- Innovation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Build stronger, safer communities and infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support climate resilient investment</li> <li>- Climate preparedness task force</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Work with countries to address climate change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance multi and bilateral cooperation</li> <li>- Combat SLCPs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>21<sup>st</sup> century transport sector</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase fuel economy</li> <li>- Advanced transport</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Protect economy and natural resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify vulnerabilities</li> <li>- Promote insurance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilize climate finance</li> <li>- Free trade in environmental goods and services</li> <li>- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Cutting energy waste</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efficiency standards</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Reducing other GHGs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HFCs</li> <li>- Methane</li> <li>- Forests</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Federal leadership</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Use science to manage impacts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess impacts</li> <li>- Launch climate data initiative</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Lead in climate negotiations</b></li> </ul>

# United States: Deliver on Commitments

- 2020 Target – 17% below 2005 levels On Track
- 2025 Target – 26-28% below 2005 levels Stretch Target

FIGURE 1: Progress Toward the U.S. Climate Goal for 2025



The U.S. goal under the Paris Agreement is a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. The top line in this figure represents net U.S. emissions in 2005. From left to right, the bars represent emission reductions through 2014, projected reductions by 2025 under a business-as-usual (no new policies) scenario, potential reductions from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, and additional measures under the Climate Action Plan. In total, these would reduce emissions 21.8 percent from 2005 levels, leaving a “gap” of 4.2 percent.

Sources: EPA, EIA, State Department (2015)

TABLE 1: COMPONENTS OF THE BUSINESS-AS-USUAL (BAU) FORECAST FOR 2025

EMISSION CATEGORIES	EFFECT IN 2025 (MMTCO2E)	% CHANGE*
EIA forecast for energy-related CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (2014–2025)	+105	+1.6%
Clean Power Plan & tax credits for wind and solar	-399	-6.2%
EPA forecast for non-CO <sub>2</sub> GHGs (2014–2025)	+79	+1.2%
Projected change in carbon sink	-146	-2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-361</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>

Note that net emissions are equal to total greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases) minus withdrawals to carbon sinks.

\*Based on 2005 base year net emissions as reported in the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990 - 2013 (EPA, 2015)

# Headwinds and Tailwinds

- Policy Uncertainty
  - Outcome of 2016 elections
- Regulatory Uncertainty
  - Pending and challenged regulations
- Market Conditions
  - Overall pace of economic growth
  - Nuclear closures
- Technological Evolution
  - Declining cost of wind, solar, and batteries

# United States: Broaden and Deepen Engagement



- Create new partnerships to keep up momentum and link the U.S. to other countries through engagement
- Promote action from the private sector and subnational actors
- Support the climate policies of key actors like Canada, Mexico, India, and China
- Broad focus to the long-term and non-energy sector sources of emissions