

A. Introduction

1. The **Institute of Sustainable Development (ISDNGO)** was established in 2013 with the aim of research in the field of sustainable development and in 2017, it succeeded in obtaining special consultative status with ECOSOC.
 - a. By Review of the human rights situation in the USA, ISDNGO offers recommendations to improve the human rights situation in this country:
 - b. Continue efforts to develop women's rights
 - c. Continue efforts to promote the rights of children
 - d. Strengthen legal and administrative measures and efforts to promote Sustainable Development
 - e. Continue affirmative action to promote and protect human rights, particularly the rights of women and children.

B. Background

2. This report is prepared in alignment with recommendations 26.5, 26.152, 26.287, 26.286, and 26.90, drawn from the UPR recommendations of the United States of America (3rd Cycle - 36th Session). These recommendations emphasize several key actions:
 - a. **Ratification of International Treaties:** Urgently ratify outstanding international human rights treaties to advance progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 11, 13, and 16. As will describe below, in these cases, U.S. has not implemented its commitment:
 - i. **Convention on the Rights of the Child¹:** The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most rapidly ratified human rights treaty, with 196 countries as State Parties, leaving only the United States unratified. Although the U.S. signed the Convention, it has not yet ratified it, resulting in significant gaps in child rights protections. In the U.S., legal standards for children do not meet international norms, as children can be married in 41 states, subjected to corporal punishment in 47 states, sentenced to life without parole in 22 states, and work in hazardous conditions in all 50 states. Due to the lack of federal ratification, child rights protections vary widely by state.
 - ii. **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).** The United States remains one of only half a dozen U.N. member states that have yet to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The treaty was signed in 1977, but no steps toward

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/09/07/no-us-state-meets-child-rights-standards>
<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/frequently-asked-questions#:~:text=Only%20the%20United%20States%20of,has%20yet%20to%20do%20so.>

ratification have ever been taken. Meanwhile, the gap between the rich and the poor in this country continues to grow. The United States is historically suspicious of even recognizing economic, social and cultural rights as “rights” that might be amenable to any method of enforcement²

- iii. **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** is a United Nations treaty that focuses on women's rights and women's issues worldwide. It is both an international bill of rights for women and an agenda of action. Originally adopted by the U.N. in 1979, nearly all member nations have ratified the document. Conspicuously absent is the United States, which has never formally done so³.

- b. **Legislative Frameworks:** Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen comprehensive legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- i. **The Paris Agreement** is an international climate change pact adopted in December 2015 by countries that are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled "Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements," which initiates the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and any related commitments under the UNFCCC. The Executive Order directs the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to submit a formal notification of withdrawal to the UN Secretary-General. According to the Paris Agreement, this withdrawal will take effect one year after the notification unless a later date is specified. It is contrary to its commitment⁴.

- c. **Addressing Homelessness:** Enhance initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness among vulnerable populations across the country. Despite efforts, homelessness in the United States surged again in 2024 to record levels. Moreover, over a third of the homeless were unsheltered, a rate far higher than in most other wealthy countries.

- d. In 2024, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the United States on a single night was the highest since survey records began, according to the latest annual homelessness report by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

² <https://commons.stmarytx.edu/thescholar/vol13/iss2/3/>

³ <https://www.thoughtco.com/why-wont-u-s-ratify-cedaw-3533824>

⁴ <https://www.whitecase.com/insight-alert/us-withdrawal-paris-agreement-impact-and-next-steps>

There were 771,480 people recorded as homeless in 2024 — or about 23 per 10,000 people. This represented an increase of over 18% relative to the numbers recorded in 2023. The data show that 36 percent of the homeless were unsheltered — that is, they lived in places not considered fit for human habitation — with the remainder living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or safe haven programs. These numbers are based on a “point-in-time” survey conducted in late January each year. One third of the individuals in the count experienced chronic homelessness, that is they had been homeless for at least a year or had at least four homeless episodes over the past 12 months. A larger group experiences homelessness for one or more short periods during the year — many of this group are not captured in the point-in-time survey⁵.

- e. **Indigenous Rights:** Establish norms to ensure free, prior, and informed consent from indigenous communities regarding projects that may impact their territories and traditional ways of life, as aligned with SDGs 10 and 16.
 - i. The history of the United States government’s treatment of Native Americans is a sad and cruel one filled with broken promises, forced removal from tribal lands, murderous conflict bordering on genocide and an adamant refusal to respect basic human rights. Presidents of USA, all supported legislation and rulemaking that diminished if not eliminated tribal control over land and denied them adequate health care, educational and housing support. The goal of presidential administrations and the Congress was to provide economic and financial opportunities to the “white man,” while driving the Native Americans into extreme poverty⁶.
 - ii. The United States government's recent decision to allow **Lithium Americas** to mine at **Thacker Pass** in Nevada has violated the rights of Indigenous people. This 18,000-acre mining project, which is currently under construction, aims to extract lithium from one of the world's largest known deposits. The land surrounding Thacker Pass holds significant historical value; it includes sites where individuals sought refuge and perished during a massacre by the U.S. cavalry in 1865. Tribal members honor their ancestors by commemorating the massacre annually and participating in various religious practices on this sacred land. The extraction process will generate toxic waste stored in a **350-foot-high tailings stack**, raising concerns among environmental watchdogs about potential catastrophic failures that could release hazardous materials into the environment. Courts have consistently

⁵ <https://econofact.org/why-has-the-us-homeless-population-been-rising>

⁶ <https://www.bridgew.edu/stories/2023/united-states-treatment-native-americans>

upheld the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) environmental assessments, and the project has been extensively reviewed and permitted by multiple state agencies, including those responsible for the filtered tailings facility.

C. The Impact of the U.S. Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Environment and Sustainable Development

3. The decision by President Donald Trump to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement on January 20, 2025, marks a significant shift in U.S. environmental policy. This withdrawal not only threatens global climate change mitigation efforts but also has profound implications for public health, social inequalities, and the multilateral cooperation necessary for sustainable development. The Paris Agreement, a landmark international accord, aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an aspirational target of 1.5 degrees Celsius. As one of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, the U.S.'s exit jeopardizes international climate commitments and global sustainability efforts.

I. Climate Change and Environmental Consequences

4. The environmental consequences of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement are severe. Historically, the U.S. has been one of the most significant contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for approximately 15% of total emissions (World Resources Institute, 2021). By abandoning the agreement, the U.S. weakens global efforts to combat climate change, creating a ripple effect that could discourage other nations from meeting their own emissions reduction targets.
5. The absence of U.S. leadership undermines international cooperation on climate change, making it more challenging to achieve crucial climate goals. If other major emitters follow suit or reduce their commitments, it could lead to delays in mitigating climate change, increasing the likelihood of extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and rising sea levels. The consequences of inaction will disproportionately impact vulnerable communities worldwide, exacerbating environmental and economic instability.

II. Impact on Global Health

6. The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement coincided with the Trump administration's broader isolationist policies, including the decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO). These actions have significant implications for global health, as climate change intensifies health crises such as heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and food insecurity.
7. As the largest financial contributor to the WHO, the U.S. plays a crucial role in funding programs that mitigate health risks associated with climate change. Without this support, the global response to pandemics, natural disasters, and other health emergencies may be weakened. By stepping back from international health and environmental agreements, the U.S. diminishes its ability to influence global health outcomes and undermines efforts to promote health equity on a global scale.

III. Social Inequalities and Human Rights

8. Climate change disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities. The U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement reduces the resources available for adaptation and resilience programs that

protect vulnerable populations from the worst impacts of climate change.

9. Additionally, this decision signals a retreat from the U.S.'s role as a global advocate for human rights and environmental justice. Sustainable development initiatives thrive on international collaboration, ensuring that the rights of indigenous and marginalized groups are respected in the face of climate change (United Nations, 2015). Without active U.S. participation, the global push for equitable climate solutions is significantly weakened, putting millions at risk of displacement, food insecurity, and economic hardship.

IV. **Repercussions for Multilateralism**

10. The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement underscores a troubling trend toward isolationism, which threatens global governance structures built on cooperation. As geopolitical tensions rise and new global challenges emerge, international collaboration is more critical than ever. Historically, the U.S. has played a leading role in shaping international policies and fostering partnerships to address global issues.
11. Without U.S. leadership in climate negotiations, international momentum to tackle climate change may weaken. A diminished commitment to multilateralism could lead to fragmentation in global climate policies, making it more difficult to coordinate effective responses to environmental crises. This shift may also erode trust between nations, further complicating efforts to implement sustainable development initiatives worldwide.

D. **Recommendations**

12. Given the far-reaching consequences of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and other international commitments, the U.S. government should reconsider its approach to global environmental and health governance. The following recommendations can help restore U.S. leadership and strengthen its role in promoting sustainability:
 - **Rejoin the Paris Agreement:** The U.S. should take immediate steps to rejoin the Paris Agreement, reaffirming its commitment to global climate action. This move would restore confidence in U.S. leadership on environmental issues and encourage other nations to remain steadfast in their climate commitments.
 - **Invest in Renewable Energy:** Prioritizing investments in renewable energy infrastructure and clean technologies can drive economic growth while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Expanding the renewable energy sector enhances domestic energy security and supports job creation in sustainable industries.
 - **Strengthen International Collaboration:** Reengaging with the WHO and other global health organizations is essential to bolstering international responses to health crises exacerbated by climate change. The U.S. should provide financial and technical support to these organizations to ensure a coordinated global effort in addressing climate-related health risks.
 - **Address Social Inequality:** Climate action should be integrated with efforts to reduce social inequality. Policies must prioritize the needs of vulnerable communities by ensuring they have access to adaptation resources and representation in environmental decision-making processes.

- **Promote Multilateralism:** The U.S. should reaffirm its commitment to multilateral agreements and collaborative international efforts to tackle global challenges. Strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering partnerships will enhance the effectiveness of climate action and sustainable development initiatives.

E. Conclusion

The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the WHO represents a pivotal moment in global environmental and health policy. This decision undermines established frameworks for climate action, weakens international health initiatives, and endangers collaborative efforts to address urgent global challenges. By reengaging with multilateral organizations and recommitting to international partnerships, the U.S. can play a crucial role in steering the world toward a more sustainable and equitable future.