

Mobilizing for
**RECOVERY,
PROSPERITY &
SUSTAINABILITY**

USCIB VISION STATEMENT



Multilateralism is Essential for Building Back Better

Multilateral cooperation is the single most powerful vehicle to achieve an inclusive and sustainable path to dealing with the enormity of the challenges facing society today. As our nation and the world face daunting crises of healthcare, unemployment and poverty, climate change and human rights, recognition of business as an essential partner in finding solutions in the international policy arena is critical to achieving success.

The Biden Administration faces momentous decisions. While we tackle urgent domestic needs together, it is also more important than ever to design and execute international policy strategies that approach recovery, prosperity and sustainability as an integrated vision, working in partnership with American business.

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And while the President has rightly prioritized renewing and restoring alliances globally, we call on the Administration to also focus on strong and resilient alliances with the American private sector for engagement in the international policy arena. Recognition of, and engagement with, the private sector will bring the considerable resources of U.S. companies working with global business to turn challenges into opportunities and deliver practical and realistic solutions.

The complex challenges before us require strategic and coordinated all-of-government, multi-disciplinary actions throughout the multilateral system and in global markets, co-created and implemented via partnerships at every level with all societal partners, including business.

USCIB's track record of responsible long-term engagement at home and in multilateral organizations across economic, environmental and standard-setting bodies and deliberations is unparalleled. Our members are leading U.S. companies located in every corner of the world where they are driving solutions, innovation, investment and partnerships through trade and via supply and value chains across the international marketplace. We are the proud U.S. affiliate of the world's leading business organizations, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and Business at OECD (BIAC), which provide USCIB members with the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of representative global business views and leadership on key economic, social and environmental issues. In many cases these positions will complement the Administration's international policy priorities.

USCIB and our members are prepared to mobilize our international business network, to redouble business innovation and investment, to deploy U.S. products through trade that creates jobs, and to support rule of law and inclusive multilateralism. USCIB will continue to actively work toward international business consensus on key issues such as climate change, inclusive economic growth, business and human rights and the future of work.

American companies have already demonstrated their commitment to stand up for democratic values at home and abroad, to respond to the pandemic, to deliver climate change and nature-based solutions to environmental challenges and to prepare for the transformative digital economy.

We call on the Biden administration to embrace and lead on the vision of prosperity, sustainability, livelihoods and well-being, leaving no one behind, that is embodied in the holistic vision of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). USCIB and our members are ready to help deliver on that vision through trade, investment, innovation, job creation, partnership and substantive engagement.

Let's get to work.



About USCIB & the 2021 Crosscutting Policy Briefs

Since its founding over 75 years ago, USCIB has been a responsible and committed partner in the multilateral system representing leading U.S. companies in every sector and working closely with the Administration over several decades.

USCIB serves as the sole U.S. affiliate of:

- The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- The International Organization of Employers (IOE)
- Business at OECD (BIAC)

USCIB has standing in:

- The UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- UN Environment (UNEP)



USCIB is the only U.S. business group accorded NGO consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

USCIB has developed a suite of **2021 Crosscutting Policy Briefs**, reflecting USCIB recommendations to the Administration on key international issues and multilateral institutions. These papers share a common template for ease of reading, highlighting where USCIB can assist in advancing Administration objectives and setting out concrete multi-disciplinary actions for the Administration to achieve win-win outcomes at home and abroad, working in partnership with USCIB and its members. A summary of their main messages is attached as an Annex to this paper.



Effective WTO & Multilateral Trade



Advance Rule of Law



Combat Illicit Trade



Pursue Sustainability & Biodiversity



Lead the Digital Economy



Advance Vaccine Literacy



Strengthen U.S. Competitiveness



Redefine U.S.-China Relations

A Fresh Start: USCIB Priorities for Integrated International Policy Towards Recovery, Prosperity & Sustainability

USCIB members regard the following areas as critical inter-connected departure points for the Administration's re-engagement in international forums and in the global marketplace. These areas are elaborated in USCIB 2021 Crosscutting Policy Briefs which can be found [here](#).



Rejoin and re-engage with multilateral institutions and support substantive recognized business engagement.

As the U.S. rejoins international institutions and initiatives, such as the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the World Health Organization and the UN Human Rights Council, and strengthens engagement with others, such as the World Trade Organization and OECD, **we encourage attention to improving these bodies' effectiveness and enhancing their inclusiveness of business and other important societal partners, so that they incent and crowd in business for policy dialogue, partnership, implementation and assessment and in project development and execution.**

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Advocate for trusted, transparent and recognized working relationships within multilateral bodies for business and the removal of arbitrary barriers and discriminatory restrictions on the private sector.



Prioritize the essential enablers for recovery from the triple shock of COVID-19 to healthcare, jobs, food security and economic activity on the foundation of good governance and rule of law globally.

The Administration should utilize all levers of U.S. influence to work with allies bilaterally and within the multilateral system to identify incentives for governments to pass, implement and enforce national laws that advance democratic values and reflect international labor and human rights standards.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Engage in substantive consultation with U.S. businesses and other stakeholders to reflect real world conditions.
- Undertake a thorough data-based assessment of the measured impacts, benefits and costs of supply chain policies and review supply chain directed regulations to assess their identified impacts on national and global businesses, rule of law and the overall advancement of employment, economic growth, trade and private sector investment alongside human rights and labor rights.



Promote rules-based multilateral trade and globalization and combat illicit trade.

Globalization must deliver sustainable, just, inclusive and resilient recovery and growth at home and abroad. The best way to do that will be through rules-based open multilateral trade, that works to deploy essential products and services, that maintains the security and resilience of supply chains and that reinvigorates the WTO.

Illicit trade corrodes the underpinning of democracy, good governance, supply chain security, impedes human rights and hampers the implementation of national sustainability strategies. Increased corruption, criminality and trade in illicit goods continue to sap governments of vital tax revenues and undermines funding for pandemic response and economic recovery.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Continue to push for WTO reform, reviving the Appellate Body, concluding ongoing negotiations, looking for new opportunities and resolving long-standing issues like those of developing country status.
- Elevate the fight against kleptocracy and illicit trade as foreign policy priorities.



Pursue sustainability, climate change and biodiversity through private sector innovation.

The business community is the source of solutions to tackle the linked sustainability challenges of climate change and biodiversity. It is through enabling frameworks at the international level and in the global marketplace that we can multiply positive impact, create jobs at home and abroad and continue U.S. leadership as a source of sustainability solutions.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- As the U.S. prepares its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), consult with U.S. companies of every sector to catalyze and deploy innovation and knowhow. The U.S. NDC should set actions and partnerships in the international arena, inside and outside the UNFCCC, via trade, investment and development cooperation.
- Oppose any arbitrary restriction on genetically modified or bio-tech developed technologies and to support innovation that will underpin the development of nature-based solutions.



Strengthen U.S. leadership in the Digital Economy to bridge the digital divide, preserve an open Internet and develop robust digital security frameworks.

Digital technologies, and the online environment enabled by them, provide an unprecedented opportunity to grow the global economy and bridge inequalities by raising productivity, fostering creativity and boosting innovation. U.S. high technology companies – global leaders in this sector – have the potential to create new jobs and greater efficiencies across all sectors. The digital sovereignty goals set forth by economies throughout the world will create fundamental challenges for U.S. companies and may affect their efforts to fuel U.S. economic recovery, create employment opportunities for Americans and enhance business competitiveness.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Develop a comprehensive, whole-of-government plan that prioritizes U.S. leadership in the Digital Economy. Elements of this plan should include:
 - Creating an enabling environment for investment in the build-out of broadband technologies and cutting-edge technologies, such as 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
 - Promoting the global movement of data through negotiations on trade and privacy agreements.
 - Building trust in the online environment by promoting development of robust digital security frameworks.
 - Empowering people with new skills to succeed in the digital economy.



Partner with business on employer-led vaccine literacy.

The U.S. business community has led the way to provide medical treatments and vaccines to respond to this unprecedented pandemic. It is imperative that vaccine acceptance is promoted around the world.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Partner with American employers to advance the widest possible uptake and use of available vaccines and promote vaccine literacy and education.



Ensure international taxation frameworks strengthen U.S. competitiveness.

Well-designed and fair tax and regulatory environments in the international marketplace are essential to the success of our domestic economy. Excessive taxes and heavy-handed regulations will be counter-productive for struggling U.S. companies.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Carefully consider competitiveness impacts of proposed tax regimes on U.S. companies operating overseas, in particular concerning the OECD digital tax project and the European Commission's tax agenda.



Redefine the U.S.-China relationship based on constructive dialogue and tough-minded, focused enforcement.

The Administration should return to a holistic and multilateral approach of working with allies to address concerns with China when tackling global issues like climate change, human rights and illicit trade.

WE ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO:

- Immediately engage with the U.S. business community to understand the impacts of these issues on U.S. companies, as well as inform its diplomatic efforts to engage not only in China but also U.S. allies on issues of shared concern.