

The United States of America

Positions for the Economic Commission for Europe

I. The role of Economic Policy in Prevention of Conflict

The United States of America acknowledges the utilization of economics as a measure in the prevention of conflict and peace building. The U.S recognizes the importance of strengthening trade relationships as a building block towards peace. **Internationally**, the United States is a member of the Peace Building Commission (PBC), establishing integrated strategies for post-conflict peace building and recovery, laying the foundation for sustainable development. In 2012 the United States endorsed A/RES/67/173 on the promotion of peace as a vital requirement of all human rights. In 2013, The U.S also adopted A/RES/68/303, strengthening the role of mediation to encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention. In 2014 the U.S adopted S/RES/2171, in support of strengthening strategic dialogue, partnerships, and more regular exchanges of views and information at the working level, with the aim of building both national and international capacities in relation to preventive diplomacy. The United States is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), providing legal and institutional framework aimed at reducing obstacles to international trade. The U.S is also a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), promoting policies in order to improve the economic and the social well-being of people as well as understanding the drive of economic, social, and environmental change. The OECD provides a platform to compare policies and measure the productivity and global flows of trade and investment. **Regionally**, The United States, along with Canada and Mexico, partake in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), creating the world's largest free trade area. The United States has partnered with Colombia to create the U.S – Colombia Trade Agreement, which will help both economies expand by opening new markets, essentially providing a level playing field. This agreement has resulted in an “Action Plan Related to Labor Rights,” which will lead to greatly enhanced labor rights in Colombia. In August 2004, the United States signed the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) along with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. This agreement eliminates tariffs, opens markets, reduces barriers to services, and promotes transparency. It is facilitating trade and investment among the seven countries and furthering regional integration and peace. **Nationally**, The U.S created the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), which engage in conflict prevention, crisis response, and stabilization. Through the United States Agency for International development (USAID), the U.S provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance, promoting economic prosperity, prevention, and recovery from conflicts. The U.S created the Interagency Conflict Assessment Framework (ICAF), a tool that enables individuals from different government departments to access conflict situations collaboratively and plan for conflict prevention, mitigation, and stabilization. Realizing the role of economic politics in the prevention of conflict, the United States proposes the following **5-point action plan**: **I.** Establishment of sound economic management, balanced poverty reduction, peace education, and the promotion of dialogue among conflicting groups; **II.** Promotion of free trade agreements such as, the Transatlantic Free Trade Area (TAFTA), which, once completed, will form a free trade area among the United States and European Union with the possibility of combining with Canada, Mexico, and the European Free Trade Association; **III.** Integration of the public, private, national and international actors in the efforts of creating sustainable peace. The private sector should play a role in enhancing security by making investments targeted at youth unemployment through education, micro-financing and vocational training. National governments and international organizations must be responsible for creating fair trade policies to promote transparency and allow for states to produce stronger economies conducive to job growth; **IV.** Companies as well as states should revise their business principles to include explicit statements on human rights and an annual report on social performance and inclusivity; **V.** The creation of an inclusive environment which will produce sustainability and promote peace not only on a national level but on a regional and international level as well.

II. Expanding Sustainable Energy Policies and Regulations

The United States of America recognizes the depletion of fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy resources. **Internationally**, As a member of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the U.S endorses the GEOSS 10-year implementation plan intended to improve the management of energy resources through the

reduction of risks in energy infrastructure, collecting accurate inventories of greenhouse gases and pollutants, and meeting the supply and demand of energy with an improved understanding of renewable energy potential. In 2012 the United States adopted A/RES/67/203, on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the need to establish the post-2015 development agenda. The U.S. also endorsed A/RES/67/215, on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy. In 2013, the U.S. adopted A/RES/68/212, on the protection of global climate for present and future generations. Through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. has entered into agreements with Australia, Canada, European Union, European Free Trade Association, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Taiwan to promote specific ENERGY STAR qualified products in their markets. ENERGY STAR is a program established under the authority of the Clean Air Act Section 103(g) that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect the climate through superior energy efficiency. The U.S., along with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), have created the U.S.-Asia-Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership that will address the needs of an estimated 387 million people in Asia without access to electricity. This will be done through encouraging the use of wind, solar, and geothermal power, promoting greater use of cleaner fuel, developing smart grids and cross-border connectivity, and addressing rural electrification issues and energy efficiency. As part of the Rio+20 meeting, the United States committed to support the SE4ALL initiative and meet its goal by 2030, which includes ensuring universal access to modern energy services, and doubling the global rate of energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy. **Regionally**, under the agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Air Quality, the EPA and Environment Canada have shared information on greenhouse gas vehicles standard development, and have discussed strategies and approaches regarding reducing greenhouse gas emissions from both light and heavy-duty vehicles. The U.S. supports the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), which is a flexible platform for partners to address: renewable energy, cleaner use of fossil fuels, energy efficiency, energy poverty reduction, climate change adaptation, energy infrastructure, and sustainable forest and land use. Along with Colombia's former Minister of Mines and Energy, Mauricio Cardenas, the U.S. Secretary of State launched Connecting the Americas 2022 (Connect 2022). This initiative establishes the goal of achieving universal access to electricity through enhanced electrical interconnections, power sector investment, renewable energy development, and cooperation. **Nationally**, the U.S. offers SmartWay, a program that aims to improve fuel efficiency and the reduction of transportation-related gas emissions and air pollution. The United States is a strong supporter of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and became the first G-7 member to implement the EITI domestically in 2014. This promotes transparency and accountability in natural resource management for citizens. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources (State/ENR) launched the Unconventional Gas Technical Engagement Program (UGTEP), in order to help countries safely and economically utilize their unconventional natural gas resources. Through the Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI), the U.S. provides a range of technical and capacity building assistance to a select group of countries that are on their way to becoming the world's next generation oil and gas producers. The U.S. stated policies in support of renewable energy include: Renewable Portfolio Standards, Public Benefits Funds for Renewable Energy, Output-Based Environmental Regulations, Interconnection Standards, Net Metering, Feed-In Tariffs, Property Assessed Clean Energy, and Financial Incentives. In order to further address the expansion of sustainable energy and regulations, the U.S. proposes the following **5-point action plan**: **I.** Promote a stable and secure global energy economy by engaging foreign governments to maintain the security of supplying and pursuing alternative energy options and diversification of energy types, including implementing sanctions as a diplomatic tool; **II.** Encourage the establishment of financially viable electric power systems that can attract the private investment needed to meet growing electricity demands, especially in developing regions; **III.** Support investments in innovative technologies that can cost-effectively meet financial and policy goals, including the avoidance, reduction, or sequestration of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases; **IV.** Conduct a Quadrennial Energy Review focusing on infrastructure challenges and identifying the threats, risks, and opportunities for U.S. energy and climate security; **V.** Doubling the generation of electricity from wind, solar, and geothermal power, establishing new greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for cars and trucks, and reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020.