

**Joint Declaration of Intent**  
**on**  
**the Establishment of a U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership**  
**between**  
**the Department of State and the Department of Energy,**  
**of the Government of the United States of America**  
**on the one side**  
**and**  
**the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action**  
**and the Federal Foreign Office,**  
**of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany,**  
**on the other side**

The Department of State and the Department of Energy of the Government of the United States of America, on the one side, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and the Federal Foreign Office of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the other side, hereinafter "the Participants":

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that the U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership was launched by President Biden and Chancellor Merkel on July 15, 2021;

**UNDERSCORE** their intent to each achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or earlier and to implement fully the Paris Agreement on climate change to which both the United States and Germany are Parties;

**ENDEAVOR** to leading the world and joint efforts to solve the global climate crisis;

**STRIVE** for an ambitious, economically vibrant and sustainable energy transition and to invest in a clean economy that drives growth, helps to ensure a just transition, and creates jobs on both sides of the Atlantic for present and future generations while tackling climate change and inequality;

**RECOGNIZE** the strategic role of renewable energy and international collaboration in attaining these goals;

**RECOGNIZE** that climate change and energy policy are inextricably linked: climate change cannot be solved without an accelerated energy transformation or by any one country alone;

**INTEND** to cooperate on energy and climate policy and exploring opportunities to align policies and approaches;

**RECOGNIZE** that cooperation in transitioning to sustainable net-zero emissions energy systems delivers mutual benefits and sustainable prosperity of the international community;

**RECOGNIZE** that bilateral cooperation, multilateral leadership, and third-country engagement are intended to support the global transformation of the energy sector, which will serve as an additional driver for a post-COVID economically and ecologically sustainable recovery and create significant investment, business, manufacturing, and zero-emissions technology opportunities for U.S. and German companies and workers as well as healthy living conditions for citizens and communities;

**EXPRESS** a desire to strengthen their comprehensive bilateral partnership, also in view of supporting our cooperation in multilateral fora and in enhancing the cooperation between the United States and the entire European Union;

**INTEND** therefore to enhance their bilateral dialogue and practical cooperation on climate policy and energy transition;

and have therefore come to the following understandings:

## **OBJECTIVE**

This Joint Declaration of Intent (JDOI) is to confirm the content and structure of the U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership (the “Partnership”) launched by Chancellor Merkel and President Biden on July 15, 2021. The Partnership will provide a framework for deepening cooperation on climate policy, transformational energy technologies, cross-sector decarbonization, and advancing the energy transition in emerging economies. The Partnership is designed to build on opportunities existing in bilateral and multilateral fora and dialogues to accelerate the efforts to reach climate neutrality in the United States, in Germany, as well as at the global level. The United States and Germany collaborate in numerous multilateral fora and aim to coordinate their efforts therein as well as across relevant partnerships and initiatives.

The Partnership should strategically guide, deepen, and expand ongoing cooperation. It is intended to be used to develop shared climate, energy and decarbonization policy priorities to accelerate both short-term commitments and long-term economy-wide net zero goals, identify areas for enhanced bilateral cooperation, and facilitate renewable energy and innovative energy and climate technologies and services to support economic growth and well-paid jobs in both countries.

In addition to a close and regular policy dialogue, the Partnership is expected to facilitate, *inter alia*, people-to-people exchanges on best practices and knowledge in order to encourage mutual learning; the shared development of effective policies; bilateral trade and investment; as well as joint research, development, and demonstration. The Participants underline the importance of the involvement of the private sector as well as of civil society as drivers of ambitious climate policy and transitional energy technology and policies. The Partnership aims to promote business-to-business as well as civil society exchanges with the United States and Germany.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE**

- a) The Partnership is expected to be co-chaired from the U.S. side by the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) and the Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) and from the German side by the Federal Foreign Minister and the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, with participation from the U.S. Department of State and other agencies or ministries, as appropriate. The Participants understand that other ministries and agencies referred to in this JDOI may include the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection.
- b) The Co-chairs are expected to hold Joint Ministerial meetings to set the overall strategic direction and prioritize items of strategic importance for the future work under the Partnership and review the progress of cooperation. Joint meetings of all Co-chairs should take place as appropriate with a goal of meeting at least every two years. Additionally, bilateral ministerial meetings can take place to advance the work of the Partnership in the different areas as appropriate.
- c) The Participants intend to establish a Steering Committee that is expected to be co-chaired from the U.S. side by DOE’s Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, a senior advisor to SPEC, and the Department of State’s Assistant Secretary for the

Bureau of Energy Resources, and from the German side by representatives at the Director General Level from the participating ministries. Joint Steering Committee meetings are expected to take place as appropriate and at least every trimester. A member of the Steering Committee may convene additional ad-hoc meetings of the Committee or parts thereof on specific topics, as appropriate. Other agencies or ministries can participate in Steering Committee meetings, as appropriate.

- d) The Steering Committee is expected to:
  - 1) Serve as a forum to identify priority areas of cooperation and joint goals and milestones, evaluate progress, prepare decisions for the Ministerial meetings, consult on the means of cooperation, and evaluate and improve upon the results of the cooperation; and
  - 2) Implement the Partnership based on the guidance and priority areas of cooperation set by the Ministers.
- e) The Partnership will consist of three areas of cooperation:
  - 1) **Climate Action** (led by representatives from SPEC, DOE, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action in close cooperation with all other relevant participants and other agencies or ministries, as appropriate);
  - 2) **Transformational Energy Technologies** (led by representatives of DOE, SPEC, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action in close cooperation with all other relevant participants, as appropriate); and
  - 3) **Energy Transitions in Emerging Economies** (led by representatives of DOE, SPEC, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action in close cooperation with all other relevant participants and other agencies or ministries, as appropriate).
- f) Within these areas, the operative cooperation is expected to be carried out by Working Groups that are expected to implement the strategic goals set by the Steering Committee priorities and the Joint Ministerial meetings. The Working Groups are envisioned to develop action plans, including cross-sectoral approaches and concrete projects. The Working Groups are expected to be co-chaired by representatives appointed by each Participant. Working Group members can include relevant subject-matter experts and other agencies or ministries, as appropriate. The Working Groups may initiate relevant dialogues or task forces regarding a specific topic with the private sector, representatives from science, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders. The Working Groups are expected to meet on a regular basis (either physically or virtually) and report progress and deliverables to the Steering Committee and the Co-chairs as appropriate.
- g) Each Participant is expected to be responsible for the expenses of its own representatives attending Ministerial meetings, Steering Committee meetings, meetings of Working Groups, and meetings of cooperative activities, or projects under this JDOI. This JDOI does not constitute an obligation of funds, and the ability of each Participant to implement the cooperative activities of the Partnership under this JDOI depends on the availability of appropriated funds.
- h) Each Participant is expected to be responsible for its own expenses incurred in carrying out its role in cooperative activities and projects under this JDOI.
- i) The Participants are expected to cooperate and carry out their activities and projects under this JDOI in accordance with their respective national laws, regulations and policies.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The Participants expect to set forth in writing the timing, scope and deliverables for any activity or project. For any cooperative activity that may give rise to the creation of intellectual property or inventions, the Participants intend to conclude separate arrangements related to the allocation of intellectual property generated during the course of such cooperative activity.

## **DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The Participants intend to resolve any difference in the interpretation or implementation of this JDOI amicably through consultations.

## **STATUS**

This JDOI is not an international agreement, does not give rise to legal rights or obligations, and is not legally binding on the Participants.

## **FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

- a) This JDOI becomes effective upon the date of the last note in exchange of notes between the Governments of the Participants confirming that the JDOI may become effective.
- b) The Participants may modify or discontinue this JDOI by their mutual written decision.

Either Participant may discontinue its participation in this JDOI at any time but is expected to give at least six (6) months advance written notice to the other Participant. Upon discontinuation of this JDOI, joint activities that have been previously decided on by the Participants and that depend on financial support by the Participants are expected to be implemented and carried out fully as decided under the provisions of the JDOI, unless otherwise mutually decided in writing.

Signed, in duplicate in the German and English languages, both texts being equally valid.

For the Department of State:

For the Federal Foreign Office:

---

John Forbes Kerry  
Place    Date

---

Annalena Baerbock  
Place    Date

For the Department of Energy:

For the Federal Ministry for Economic  
Affairs and Climate Action:

---

David M. Turk  
Place    Date

---

Dr. Robert Habeck  
Place    Date

Annex:  
FACT SHEET: U.S.-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership