

Policy Analysis of the Return of the United States to the Paris Agreement in the Joe Biden Era

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ABSTRACT: In 2017, under the leadership of Donald Trump, the United States left the Paris Agreement. Substantially, the United States has played a role in reducing global emissions by 21 percent. At the beginning of his tenure, Joe Biden promoted several policies, one of which was the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement. This study is a qualitative research that relies on literature study as its data collection method. Data collection is carried out by searching and compiling information from various sources, such as news analysis, concepts from experts contained in books, scientific works, articles, the internet, or journals relevant to the research theme, with the aim of knowing what is behind the United States returning to the Paris agreement under Joe Biden's leadership, before the United States had left the agreement in addressing climate change. The issue of climate change has a high level of significance for all earthlings. Therefore, Joe Biden at the beginning of his tenure as President immediately made the decision to return to the Paris agreement in overcoming this climate change issue. The author uses the theory of decision making to analyze the problems in this journal. With the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement, it provides major changes in the international world by strengthening global cooperation, encouraging the participation of other countries, influencing energy and economic policies, and restoring the image of the United States as a global leader in the issue of climate change.

Keywords: Decision Making, Paris Agreement, United States.



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INTRODUCTION

In the current era of globalization, interactions between countries around the world are increasing and changing pragmatically. Foreign policy is a very crucial aspect in managing the interests of a State. This is due to the impact of foreign policy on the development and achievement of a country's national interests, especially in relation to the external environment or other countries. A country's foreign policy decisions are strongly influenced by the actors who design these policies, especially the government and bureaucratic structures that have power in the country. The actors involved will consider the country's domestic conditions in determining foreign policy. Therefore, changes in the bureaucratic

structure also affect the direction of the country's foreign policy towards other countries (Kusumawardhana, 2021). This also applies to the United States.

Under Joe Biden's leadership, America experienced significant changes from the previous era. Joe Biden is a leader known for his pragmatic approach, and has demonstrated leadership qualities that address problems with effective policies. These policies, applied in addressing various challenges, have won wide acclaim from both the United States and the international community. In dealing with problems, Biden has demonstrated his ability to take concrete steps that result in efficient and sustainable solutions. These policies, which cover areas such as the economy, environment, and health, have brought significant positive changes to the country and the world. With his fact-based and solution-based approach, Biden has been able to build strong support for his policy agendas, creating positive momentum for change for the better. As such, the leadership of Biden's pragmatic approach not only benefits his own country, but also strengthens his position as a respected global leader (Rafi, n.d.).

Under Joe Biden's leadership, many changes were made in various fields. These changes are not only felt by US citizens, but also by the international community. For example, the return of the United States to the *Paris Agreement* in overcoming environmental problems (Fita et al., 2022). The team from Climate Interactive at MIT stated in their analysis that without US participation, global temperatures would increase by 0.3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. The U.S. contribution to total global emissions reductions is 21 percent (Subarkah et al., 2019). According to the 2018 National Climate Assessment report, climate change exacerbates civil unrest, wars, and causes refugees to flee their home countries. It is estimated that about 13 million Americans may migrate from their homes due to climate change, which is expected to cause 6 feet of sea level rise by 2100 (Subarkah et al., 2019).

The return of the United States to the Paris Agreement has been met with positive responses from American citizens and the international community. However, amidst the positive responses to the US return to the Paris Agreement, diplomats warn that the road ahead for the United States will not be easy. Biden's plan to reduce emissions will face significant challenges from companies that produce fossil fuels (Antara, 2021).

To support his ambitions and policies on climate change and return to the Paris Agreement, Joe Biden is reducing fossil fuel subsidies while encouraging the transition to more sustainable clean energy sources, and phasing out coal-fired power plants or reducing coal-fired power plant operations. This has had significant economic impacts, including potential job losses, particularly in the fossil fuel industry, and increased energy costs for households and businesses. During the leadership of Donald Trump, the United States left the *Paris Agreement* because according to Donald Trump, the *Paris Agreement* was a bad deal for the United States, and the participation of the United States in this agreement had an impact on economic competitiveness and job creation. He also stated that the *Paris Agreement* would only cost the United States trillions of dollars, close jobs, and hinder the oil, gas and coal manufacturing industries in the United States (Pahlevi, 2022).

Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to identify the reasons behind the decision of the United States to rejoin the Paris Agreement which had previously left. By using decision-making theory as said by Synder that decision-making is not only influenced by state decision-makers and foreign policy decisions, but can also be influenced by existing internal and external factors (Trividia, 2018).

Picture I

Conceptual framework for analyzing the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement in the Joe Biden era

AN ANALYSIS OF THE RETURN OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN THE JOE BIDEN ERA

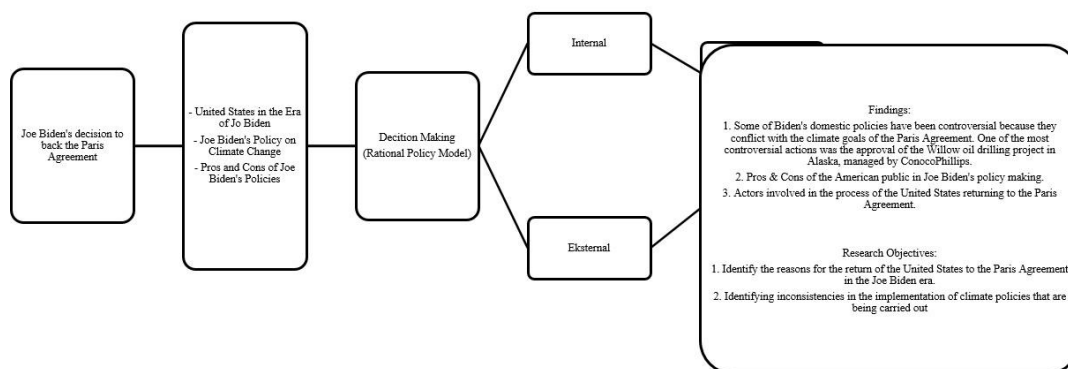


Figure I shows the conceptual framework of this research, which is based on the theory used in this study. Namely, the theory of decision-making using the rational actor model. Rational actors describe that the behavior of the State is reflected by rational individual actors. Rational actors in a state must recognize the interests of their country to achieve their country's interests by using the most efficient and rational means. Rational actors must act because of the motivation of their country's interests, and choose alternative actions that can provide great benefits to their country (Affianty, 2015). Decision-making does not only depend on the country's leaders and officials, but also on the country's internal conditions such as economic, social, and political stability. In addition, external factors such as international pressure, diplomatic relations, and the global situation also affect the decision.

The author's interest in researching this issue is partly because there are a number of significant policy changes that have been made by President Joe Biden, especially in the context of climate change policy. One of the main steps that attracted attention was the rejoining of the United States in the Paris Agreement. This decision has major implications, especially in light of the previous decision under the leadership of Donald Trump that led to the United States leaving the agreement because according to Donald Trump, the *Paris Agreement* was a deal that had a negative impact on the United States and the United States' participation in this agreement had an impact on economic competitiveness and job creation. He also stated that the *Paris Agreement* would only cost the United States trillions of dollars, close jobs, and hamper the oil, gas and coal manufacturing industries in the United States (Pahlevi, 2022). The decline in production and employment in the US coal industry has been a major factor in economic dynamics. This has been influenced by former President

Obama's shift towards clean energy, as well as a decline in coal consumption. According to data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), US coal production experienced a significant decline of 18.8% in 2016, reaching its lowest level since 1979. In addition, the number of coal mine employees also fell by 21.5%, reaching its lowest point since 1978. This has had a major impact on the US workforce. Therefore, researchers are interested in discussing the return of the United States

to the Paris Agreement in the Joe Biden era (Zhang et al., 2017).

This research aims to identify the reasons behind the United States' decision to rejoin the Paris Agreement during the Joe Biden administration. By analyzing the environmental policies and changes in political strategies taken by the Biden administration, this research will explore the various factors that drove the decision. Factors analyzed include commitment to climate change mitigation, international pressure, and the domestic and global impacts of the US return to the agreement. The research will also examine how the US return to the Paris Agreement affects international cooperation and global efforts to deal with climate change. Therefore, the underlying problem formulation of this research is "what is the background to the United States returning to the Paris Agreement in the Joe Biden era?"

METHODS

This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods to analyze how the United States is addressing climate change issues in the United States. The purpose of this research is to describe the reasons for the United States' decision to return to the Paris Agreement. In other words, this research is conducted by describing in the form of words and language in a special natural context, and using various natural methods (A. Khoirunnisa & Basri, 2020).

In this qualitative research, the data collection technique used is library research, which involves searching for various information, news analysis, concepts from experts contained in books, scientific papers, articles, the internet, print media, or journals. Relevant to the research theme (Adlini et al., 2022). This literature study approach allows researchers to gather information from various sources, thus broadening the scope and deepening the analysis of the topic under study (K. ; Khoirunnisa et al., 2024). In this study, it is intended to describe the reasons why the United States rejoined the Paris Agreement. In this study the author uses Decision Making theory with a rational actor model to analyze the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement in the Joe Biden era. After the United States withdrew from the agreement under the previous administration, Joe Biden's move to re-enter the deal signals a significant shift in the country's environmental and climate policies. By applying the rational actor model, we can identify several factors that influenced this decision.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Decisions made by countries in foreign policy are often analyzed using various theories and models. One theory that is often used is the theory of decision making. In this context, the rational actor model is often used as the main reference. This theory assumes that states behave like rational individuals who always try to maximize their interests and goals. This research will explain decision making theory using the rational actor model to analyze the reasons for the United States' return to the Paris Agreement during the Joe Biden era.

Decision making theory is an approach in the study of international relations and foreign policy that focuses on how decisions are made by states or other entities. It attempts to understand the

processes and mechanisms involved in decision-making, including problem identification, formulation of alternatives, evaluation of options, and selection of the most appropriate course of action. One important aspect of the theory is the recognition of internal and external factors that influence the decision-making process.

Graham Allison argues that the decision-making process entails a series of methodical steps taken by individuals or groups to select the most optimal option among a set of available alternatives.

Several theories have been formulated to explain this process, such as

- a) The rational model argues that the decision-making process often occurs in a gradual or stepwise manner. Individuals or organizations make gradual adjustments to decisions. Individuals or groups engage in a rational decision-making process characterized by comprehensive consideration of all accessible information, evaluation of various alternatives, and selection of the most optimal option based on their individual goals and preferences.
- b) The Bounded Rationality Model, formulated by Herbert Simon, where individuals have cognitive limitations that restrict their ability to fully process information. As a result, they rely on simplification strategies and heuristics to facilitate decision-making.
- c) The satisficing model formulated by Herbert Simon argues that individuals have a tendency to seek satisfactory or reasonably acceptable solutions, rather than striving for the most optimal solution. They choose options that fulfill the minimum necessary criteria.

Graham T. Allison in Eby Hara's book reveals that in analyzing a foreign policy process, a rational policy model can be used (Rational Policy Model). Theoretically, this policy process can be influenced by external domestic and international political factors. Within the framework of rationalism, a country's actions are analyzed with the assumption that the country rationally evaluates all available options to achieve maximum benefits.

Rational actors describe that the behavior of the State is reflected by rational individual actors. Rational actors have perfect knowledge and will try rationally and as much as possible in achieving their goals. Various types of State actions are analyzed with the assumption that these States always examine all available possibilities and choose actions rationally to achieve maximum benefits. Rational actors in a state must recognize their state's interests to achieve their state's interests by using the most efficient and rational means. Rational actors must act because of the motivation of their country's interests, and choose alternative actions that can provide great benefits to their country (Affianty, 2015).

In a previous study entitled "Projections of US Foreign Policy in the Era of the Biden Administration and its Implications for Indonesian Diplomacy" written by Erlinda Matondang, she used the concept of decision-making to analyze the projection of US foreign policy in the era of the Biden administration and its implications for Indonesian diplomacy, in this case, Indonesia needs to consider the dynamics of relations between the US, China and Russia in making decisions. And this journal also discusses how leaders make decisions using decision making theory (Matondang, 2021).

In a scientific paper entitled "The United States' Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement" written by

Henni Wahyuni (Wahyuni 2018, 1794-1800), the author examines the global environmental challenges faced by the international community. In particular, Wahyuni discusses the adverse effects of global environmental degradation, including the issue of global warming. The article also analyzes the future implications of climate change and its current impacts. Although Wahyuni provides a comprehensive study of the Paris Agreement and its consequences, the author ignores the internal and external processes and factors that influenced President Trump's decision to withdraw from the agreement. Therefore, this study aims to examine the dynamics of United States policy within the framework of the Paris Agreement through decision-making process theory (Wahyuni, 2018).

In a scientific paper entitled "Analysis of Changes in the Climate Action Plan (Cap) to the America First Energy Plan (AFEP) in the Donald Trump Administration, written by Dini Ariwindan using the concept of Rational Actor Model I from the decision making section where this concept describes foreign policy as a result of the actions of rational actors. The foreign policy decision-making process is described as an intellectual effort, similar to the reasoned and coordinated behavior of individuals. Through the application of sound reasoning, government agencies attempt to select from a range of alternatives. Government choices are analyzed within the framework of this decision-making model (Ariwindani, 2018).

The three articles use the concepts of individual decision-making, Rational Actor Model I and group decision-making. The author will examine the application of the concept of *Decision Making Process* to explain how the political approach process is carried out by government and non-government actors involved in the United States policy-making process related to the Paris Agreement on climate change. Furthermore, this analysis will be linked to the national interests that the United States wants to achieve through its decision.

1. The United State in tne Era of Joe Biden

It is undeniable that the United States has become a superpower that remains strong to this day. The United States has a federal republic system of government and has achieved high military, economic and political power. After World War II and the Cold War, Uncle Sam's country continued to advance and became an industrial center, even becoming the world's technology center after the outbreak of the Cold War and the Western and Eastern Bloc wars. After the collapse of the Soviet Union as a part of the Eastern Bloc, the United States automatically held the highest position as the world's superpower.

The United States is known as a country that upholds democratic values. The government of this country applies a system of checks and balances. The principle of checks and balances is a constitutional principle that requires that the legislative, executive and judicial powers have an equal position and supervise each other. Thus, state power can be regulated, limited, and effectively supervised to prevent and deal with abuse of power by state officials or individuals holding positions in state institutions (Sunarto, 2016). The policy-making process in the United States does not only focus on the powers and legitimacy of the executive, especially the president, but also considers interest groups and the aspirations of opposition groups.

The legislative body of the United States is called Congress, which consists of two chambers (bicameral), namely the House of Representatives and the Senate. Members of the House of Representatives are elected through general elections every two years in each state (Article 1

Paragraph 1). Meanwhile, members of the Senate are state representatives elected by the Legislative Council. Each state has two representatives in the Senate.

In a democracy, executive power has a nature that must be accountable to the people. This includes responsibility for executive actions in formulating policies and implementing or administering those policies, all of which are regulated by law and can be sanctioned by the legislature. The president is the holder of executive power as stipulated in Article 2 Paragraph 1 of the United States Constitution (sempe, 2020).

The judicial branch consists of various courts, with the Supreme Court at its apex. The main function of this branch is to interpret laws and judge the constitutionality of government actions. The Supreme Court has the power to review and decide on the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress or executive actions by the President. The decisions of the Supreme Court are final and binding, which means that they have the power to invalidate laws or acts that are deemed unconstitutional. In addition to the Supreme Court, there are various federal courts that handle cases involving federal laws, disputes between states, and other constitutional issues. These federal judges are appointed by the President and must be approved by the Senate, ensuring checks and balances in their appointments (Of, n.d.).

The principle of check and balance is reflected in various mechanisms that regulate the interaction between the three branches of government. Congress has the power to impeach the President, Vice President, and other high-ranking officials. The process begins in the House of Representatives, which can decide to impeach with a majority of votes. Impeachment hearings are then held in the Senate, which can remove the official from office with a two-thirds majority. Many executive actions, such as the appointment of top officials and international treaties, require approval from the Senate. This ensures that the President cannot act unilaterally without oversight from the legislative branch. And the Courts have the power to review legislative and executive actions, ensuring that they comply with the Constitution. This provides a balance to the legislative and executive powers by allowing the judicial branch to overturn actions deemed to violate the Constitution.

Congress has various committees tasked with overseeing executive actions. These committees can call government officials to testify, conduct investigations, and request relevant documents to ensure that executive actions are in accordance with established laws and policies.

The President has veto power over laws passed by Congress, but Congress can override this veto with a two-thirds majority in both houses. This mechanism creates a balance between legislative and executive power, ensuring that neither branch has absolute power in the legislative process. Before entering the discussion at the presidential level, four important institutions are involved, namely:

The Department of State is the department that handles the international relations of the United States, the *Department of Defense* is the department responsible for ensuring national security and overseeing the United States military forces, the *Natinal Security Council* is the department that oversees the NSC staff and has the responsibility of coordinating the administration of foreign policy, military activities, and intelligence *Central Intelligence Agency* is the department that collects, processes, and analyzes national security information from around the world (Yudistira, 2018).

Joe Biden, a leader known for his pragmatic approach, has demonstrated leadership qualities that

address problems with effective policies. These policies, applied in addressing various challenges, have earned widespread praise from both the United States and the international community. In dealing with problems, Biden has demonstrated his ability to take concrete steps that result in efficient and sustainable solutions. These policies, which cover areas such as the economy, environment, and health, have brought significant positive changes to the country and the world. With his fact-based and solution-based approach, Biden has been able to build strong support for his policy agendas, creating positive momentum for change for the better. As such, the leadership of Biden's pragmatic approach not only benefits his own country, but also strengthens his position as a respected global leader (Rafi, n.d.).

As Donald Trump's successor, Joe Biden is ready to revive the spirit of global humanism in the United States. After Joe Biden was elected president of the United States, all countries welcomed him warmly, including the United States' traditional allies in Europe. The leaders think Joe Biden will work together on existing problems. In order to restore the name of the United States in the world, Joe Biden is working hard to rejoin various global multilateral cooperation that was abandoned by the Trump administration.

Shortly after President Joe Biden was sworn in, the White House website released a list of policy priorities for the US government. In the list of seven priorities, one of them emphasizes the ambition to return to an active role in dealing with global issues. These priorities include forming alliances with democratic countries, human rights issues, engaging in global economic development, and enhancing US national security forces (Matondang, 2021). And the entire US security policy refers to the *Interim National Security Strategy Strategic Guideline* (INSSG) published on March 3, 2021. The INSSG identifies three main priorities in US security policy: protecting the security of civilians, focusing on economic development, projecting and defending US values by strengthening democracy both domestically and internationally (Matondang, 2021).

Therefore, the actions to be taken in implementing this policy were also outlined by president Joe Biden in his speech highlighting the US position in the world. In his speech, Joe Biden emphasized foreign policy with the slogan "*America is back*" as a sign that the US is active again in its global role (Matondang, 2021).

2. Joe Biden Climate Change Policy

As the world's population grows, some Western countries believe that human economic and social activities are taking place in ways that are detrimental to the environment (A. Khoirunnisa & Pricille, 2019). Climate change is a very important issue that poses a serious threat to the entire population of the Earth, and it is clear that this problem cannot be solved by itself without human effort. Climate change can have a significant impact on humans, including in the field of health, and environmental security in this case certainly includes two types of threats that affect human life, namely threats originating from natural activities and human activities (K. Khoirunnisa & Mahendra, 2021). In addition to impacting health, climate change also has the potential to damage the agricultural sector and even affect the economy as a whole (Ainurrohman & Sudarti, 2022). Winarno (2014) argues that climate change is caused by the production of greenhouse gases from industrialization activities that cause an increase in earth's temperature and climate change.

According to the 2018 National Climate Assessment report, climate change is exacerbating social

tensions, conflicts, and driving population migration from their home countries. Approximately 13 million Americans are expected to be forced from their homes due to an estimated 6 feet of sea level rise by 2100 (*Kenaikan Permukaan Laut*, 2018). According to the Climate Science Special Report (CSSR), climate change is a source of national concern and threat to the United States. Over the past 115 years, the warmest period in at least 1,700 years, the average global surface temperature has increased by 1.8 F (1.0 Celsius) between 1901 and 2016. Projections for the coming years (2021- 2050) show an annual average temperature increase of about 2.5 F for the United States. As a result, the country is facing losses, such as coastal flooding. Global sea level rise has already impacted the United States, with at least 25 cities on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts experiencing flooding, which is predicted to get worse, especially on the East and Gulf coasts of the United States (Subarkah et al., 2019).

In addition, increased rainfall in the United States has resulted in an increase in flood disasters such as the occurrence of extreme flooding in 2022 in areas of the United States within a 5-week span. And the occurrence of 6 major hurricanes in the United States in category 3 or higher during the hurricane season which is double the average number of annual severe storms from 1979 to 2017. Therefore, President Joe Biden made the decision to return the United States to the Paris Agreement. Biden has pledged to act quickly on climate change, and his engagement with scientists across the administration signals the start of a major policy reversal after four years of the Trump administration weakening US climate rules in favor of fossil fuel producers.

The Paris Agreement is an international climate change regime established by the United Nations under the auspices of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) negotiated by 195 countries that committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions on December 12, 2015. International organizations are established through treaties approved by their members. The agreement establishes objectives, powers and institutional tools that reflect a compromise between the interests of member states (Jubaidi & Budiman, 2021). In the Paris Agreement, there are no provisions that force each country to set specific policies to reduce gas emissions. However, each country is required to make a national contribution as outlined in the Paris Agreement, known as the National Determined Contribution (NDC) (Platiu, 2023).

Winarno (2014) argues that climate change is caused by the production of greenhouse gases from industrialization activities that cause an increase in earth's temperature and climate change. In his administration as president of the United States, Biden considered the climate crisis a threat to national security. Biden formed a special cabinet or agency that deals with environmental issues, especially the climate crisis (Cattleya, 2021). President Joe Biden is committed to shifting the use of fossil fuels to clean *energy* in infrastructure. Biden (2021) is committed to making the United States an environmentally friendly country, which was realized by signing an *Executive Order* on December 8, 2021 to ensure that the United States can achieve *net zero* energy and a *zero emission* economy by 2050 (Rizki Satriyo et al., 2023).

Synder said that decision-making is not only influenced by state decision-makers and foreign policy decisions, but can also be influenced by existing internal and external factors (Trividia, 2018). The threat of climate change that has the potential to damage the environment and threaten security can create tensions of power between countries both at the regional and global levels, which has the potential to cause instability. When the United States left the Paris Agreement in 2017, the response from the international community varied. This caused the image of the United

States to deteriorate in the eyes of the international world, and many countries regretted the non-compliant policies taken by the United States. Trump is considered very skeptical of international agreements. In fact, the issue of climate change has significantly affected US policies on the environment and others (Pahlevi, 2022).

On his inauguration day, January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order announcing the United States' intention to rejoin the Paris Agreement. This move sends a strong signal about the Biden administration's commitment to climate action and multilateral diplomacy. The signing of this executive order is a formal first step demonstrating that the U.S. is committed to returning to the global community in an effort to combat climate change. Soon after the executive order was signed, the United States sent a formal notification to the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, of the country's intention to rejoin the Paris Agreement. The sending of this notification is an important administrative step, as it marks the beginning of the formal process of the United States' return to the agreement. According to the terms of the Paris Agreement, once this notification is sent, a 30-day waiting period is required before rejoining becomes official. The 30-day waiting period following the sending of the formal notification is part of the procedure set out in the Paris Agreement to regulate the withdrawal or reincorporation of a country. During this period, no additional action is required from the United States. However, this waiting period provides time for the Biden administration to begin planning the next steps to be taken after the official return to the agreement. On February 19, 2021

after a 30-day waiting period expired, the United States is officially back in the Paris Agreement. The move marks the United States' return to the international stage as a leader in global efforts to address climate change. President Joe Biden stated that the United States' return to the Paris Agreement is the first step in a broader climate agenda that his administration will implement. To strengthen the commitment to climate action, President Biden appointed John Kerry as the President's Special Envoy on Climate and Gina McCarthy as National Advisor on Climate. John Kerry, who previously served as Secretary of State and played a key role in the Paris Agreement negotiations, is responsible for leading international climate diplomacy efforts. Gina McCarthy, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is in charge of coordinating domestic climate policy. Following the reincorporation, the Biden administration immediately took steps to set ambitious emissions reduction targets. In April 2021, President Biden announced a new commitment by the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030. This announcement was made at the Leaders Climate Summit hosted by the United States, which was attended by leaders from around the world.

Based on research issues related to the decision-making process to return to the Paris Climate Agreement, the US is influenced by cognitive processes and belief systems with groupthink factors. In formulating policies, Joe Biden as a decision maker considers various perceptions from certain groups, such as intellectual and professional groups, regarding the value of a policy concept. Intellectual groups include climate scientists, science experts, and environmentalists.

Before deciding to return to the Paris Climate Agreement, Joe Biden listened to opinions and reports from climate experts on disasters occurring due to climate change, including a report from the US Environmental Protection Agency on natural disaster losses caused by climate change and global warming. This group of climate scientists has made it a top priority in domestic and foreign policy to

address the threat of global warming. They warn that climate change-related disasters will continue to worsen and render some parts of the world uninhabitable if governments fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to the group of climate scientists and science experts, Joe Biden also considered reports from environmental groups such as the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and the Environmental Law and Policy Center, which support the US return to the Paris Climate Agreement. These groups report that the previous US government exacerbated the climate crisis by firing climate scientists and ignoring environmental justice. This view was considered during the 2020 presidential election campaign as part of Biden's pledge to address the climate crisis.

Professional groups such as global investors, CEOs, and leading US companies also influenced Biden's decision. They argue that the US's return to the Paris Climate Agreement will gain support in the form of additional financial flows from investors to realize a green economy, which is considered beneficial for the US (Reuters, 2020). US CEOs and leading companies support cooperation with the US in ongoing efforts to mitigate the serious impacts of climate change (Febrisari, 2022).

The United States' return to the Paris Agreement also means the country is once again active in international climate diplomacy. The United States participates in climate conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties (COP), and works with other countries to strengthen global climate action. John Kerry plays a key role in these efforts, traveling to countries to rebuild climate partnerships and push for stronger commitments to emissions reductions. In addition to supporting the United States' commitment to the Paris Agreement, the Biden administration launched a number of domestic policy and program initiatives. Here are some of the significant steps taken:

a. Green Infrastructure Plan:

One of the key components of Biden's infrastructure plan is investment in green infrastructure.

This includes modernizing the electricity grid to support the integration of renewable energy, building green public transportation infrastructure, and improving energy efficiency in commercial and residential buildings. These investments aim not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to create green jobs and increase infrastructure resilience to climate change.

b. Low Emission Vehicle Regulation:

The Biden administration directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation to set stricter emission standards for vehicles. The goal is to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, which is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the US. This includes promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) through fiscal incentives for EV purchases and investments in charging infrastructure.

c. Trump Era Environmental Policy Cancellation:

Many environmental policies that were relaxed or eliminated during the Trump administration were reviewed and reversed by the Biden administration. This includes canceling permits for projects that negatively impact the environment such as the Keystone XL oil pipeline. These steps

demonstrate the Biden administration's commitment to improving and strengthening environmental protections.

d. Funding for Research and Development (R&D):

The Biden administration is increasing funding for green technology research and development. Key focuses include renewable energy, energy storage technologies, sustainable agriculture, and carbon capture and storage. This funding aims to accelerate the innovation and development of technologies needed to achieve emissions reduction targets.

e. Public-Private Partnerships:

The government is encouraging partnerships between the public and private sectors to accelerate innovation in green technologies. This includes incentives for companies investing in climate solutions and collaboration with research institutions to develop new technologies. Through these partnerships, the Biden administration seeks to create an innovation ecosystem that supports the transition to a low-carbon economy.

f. Environmental Justice Initiative:

President Biden emphasized the importance of environmental justice, ensuring that climate policies benefit all communities, especially those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Programs like the Justice40 Initiative aim to ensure that 40% of the benefits of federal climate investments flow to underserved communities. The initiative also includes increasing access to clean energy, improving air quality, and increasing resilience to climate disasters.

At the international level, collaboration between countries is key to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The United States works with other countries through forums like the G7, G20, and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to strengthen global climate action. Active climate diplomacy by Special Envoy John Kerry helped rebuild trust and partnerships with other countries, including efforts to encourage other major countries to set more ambitious emissions reduction targets.

Although the United States has returned to the Paris Agreement, major challenges remain. Effective implementation of climate policies requires close coordination between various government agencies, continued support from Congress, and international collaboration. In addition, efforts to reduce emissions must align with the need to ensure sustainable economic growth and create jobs. The United States' return to the Paris Agreement under the leadership of President Joe Biden in 2021 signals a strong commitment to addressing climate change. However, some of Biden's domestic policies have caused controversy as they seem to contradict the climate goals espoused in the agreement.

One of the most controversial actions was the approval of the Willow oil drilling project in Alaska, managed by ConocoPhillips. The project was originally planned to build and operate up to five drilling pads with a total of 250 oil wells, including associated infrastructure such as access roads, airstrips, pipelines, gravel mines, and temporary islands for shipping modules via barge in permafrost and waters managed by the state of Alaska. The US Department of the Interior allows ConocoPhillips to drill for oil in three unspoiled federal National Petroleum Reserve sites. Alaska lawmakers and Willow Project supporters argue that the \$8 billion project will create several

thousand jobs and produce 180,000 barrels of oil daily, or about 576 million barrels over 30 years. ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance welcomed the move by the US Department of the Interior. However, many environmental activists and the global community opposed the implementation of the Willow Project, creating a petition against it. They argue that Joe Biden's decision has harmful effects on the world that will last for a long time (Putri & Raharjo, 2023).

In addition to the Willow project, the Biden administration also approved a number of new oil and gas drilling licenses on US public lands and offshore. This move was deemed necessary by the administration to maintain domestic energy and fuel price stability, but was criticized for going against a campaign promise not to approve new oil and gas drilling projects on public lands (Putri & Raharjo, 2023).

Foreign policy on climate finance has also come under scrutiny. Although Biden has pledged to increase international funding to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change, the United States' financial contribution is still considered insufficient. This is important because developing countries need significant financial support to implement effective mitigation and adaptation measures. Domestically, Biden's clean energy policies face challenges, including bureaucratic and regulatory barriers that slow the development of renewable energy projects. In addition, the transportation sector and heavy industries such as steel and cement are still major contributors to carbon emissions, which require major efforts to decarbonize. Geopolitical tensions also add to the complexity of Biden's climate policy. In addition, oil and gas are very important natural resources for human survival. Because it has a significant percentage in meeting the world's energy needs, reducing people's dependence on it will certainly be a big challenge (Putri & Raharjo, 2023).

Overall, while Biden has taken important steps to address climate change, actions like the approval of the Willow oil drilling project show inconsistencies in his climate policy. To achieve the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement, the United States needs to show greater consistency and political courage, including increased investment in renewable energy, regulatory reform, and stronger financial commitments to support developing countries. And ensuring continuity between regulations and the parties responsible for enforcing them is an important step towards creating good synergies, especially in the context of regulatory revisions. By ensuring that all parties involved have a deep understanding of existing regulations, effective cooperation for consistent implementation and enforcement can be strengthened (Khoirunnisa¹ & Jubaidi², 2024).

3. *Pros and Cons of Joe Biden's Policies*

In a change, there are always parties who are pro and contra to a change. Those in favor (pro) usually see the benefits of the policy, both in the short and long term. They believe that the proposed changes will have a positive impact. On the other hand, opponents are often concerned about the negative impacts that may arise. They may feel that the policy will bring losses, whether financially, socially or culturally. In addition, these different views can also be influenced by political backgrounds, ideologies, and personal or group interests. Those who are pro may have progressive views and think that change is part of the evolution of society, while those who are against may have conservative views that tend to maintain the status quo.

Therefore, it is important for policymakers to listen and consider all inputs from various parties before

making a final decision. An open and transparent dialog can help find the most equitable and effective solution for all parties involved.

- The majority of Republicans oppose stopping the production of new gasoline vehicles by 2035, in fact, it can be said that 82 percent of Republicans disapprove of this. And the opposite happens to the Democratic Party, which 65 percent approves of stopping the production of gasoline vehicles in 2035.
- About two-thirds of Republicans say that Joe Biden-era environmental laws and regulations are stricter and worth the cost. But three-quarters of Republicans say the stricter environmental laws have hurt the US economy.
- About two-thirds (64%) of Republicans aged 18 to 29 favor power companies using more energy from renewable sources, while Republicans aged 65 and older are less likely to support this policy (42%).
- Most Americans (90%) say they favor planting about a trillion trees to sequester carbon emissions to help mitigate the effects of climate change
- For other countries, of course, they welcome this policy change, even from the beginning of Joe Biden's campaign, which raised climate issues, especially countries that joined the Paris agreement (Hultman & Gross, 2021).

Judging from the above, the majority of Americans approve of the policies and actions taken by Joe Biden in addressing the issue of climate change. The positive response of the majority of Americans to Biden's steps in addressing climate change shows that awareness of the importance of environmental protection is increasing in the country. This support also reflects public confidence in Biden's leadership in dealing with complex and urgent global challenges. However, not everyone agrees with Biden's approach to climate change. Some critics highlight the potential economic impact of these policies, especially in terms of reducing emissions and transitioning to clean energy. They are concerned that these measures could disrupt certain industry sectors and result in economic losses for some communities. In addition, there is also debate about the effectiveness and adequacy of the measures proposed by Biden in addressing climate change. Some environmentalists and activists consider that the measures are not ambitious enough to effectively address the climate crisis, and call for further and more radical action (Brian et al., 2021). Nonetheless, the majority support of the American public for Biden's measures to address climate change suggests that there is strong momentum for change in a more environmentally friendly direction (Zeno, 2023).

The return of the United States to the Paris Agreement shows that the United States is re-committed to being a global leader in efforts to address climate change. This move was welcomed by the international community and is considered a positive signal for global cooperation in dealing with the climate crisis. In addition, Biden has introduced a series of policies and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage the transition to clean energy, and promote green technology innovation. The infrastructure program proposed by Biden, for example, includes the allocation of significant funds to improve transportation networks, modernize energy systems, and support green technologies. This will not only create new jobs and improve America's economic competitiveness, but will also help reduce the country's carbon footprint. Biden has also committed to protecting and

restoring the threatened natural environment, including the protection of conservation lands, national forests, and coastal areas.

This effort aims to preserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystems that are important for the balance of the global environment. Decision Making theory with a rational concept considers that the state is an alliance that seeks to optimize state benefits by implementing a rational foreign policy in an international context. The return of the United States to the Paris Agreement is one of its national interests, namely to face threats and improve the impact of climate change that occurs in the United States. Of course, with some considerations such as the occurrence of drought in the United States precisely in the mountainous region 77% in the region from indaho to New Mexico). And the National Climate Assessment states that in 2035-2064 the heat in the United States will increase by 70% if emissions from heat-trapping gases continue to increase. In addition, the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement can restore the name of the United States in the international arena and the change in policy from the Donal Trump administration to the Joe Biden administration has an impact on the world economy to become more environmentally friendly (Haidar Sulaeman & Tiara, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Under Joe Biden's leadership, America experienced significant changes from the previous era. One of the main steps that attracted attention was the rejoining of the United States in the Paris Agreement. This decision has major implications, especially considering the previous decision under the leadership of Donal Trump that led to the United States leaving the Paris agreement which resulted in the United States getting a bad image in the international arena because it was considered incompliant in international agreements. In his administration as president of the United States, Joe Biden considers the climate crisis a threat to his national security. Therefore, Joe Biden made the decision to return to the Paris Agreement by considering existing internal and external factors. By returning to the Paris Agreement, the United States is showing official recognition of the problem of climate change and its commitment to addressing it. This is important because climate change is a global challenge that requires international cooperation to achieve effective solutions. The United States' return to the Paris Agreement is a strategic step in addressing climate change and can also help restore the United States' image as a global leader on environmental issues.

Using the concept of decision making theory, Joe Biden's decision making reflects the rational actor model in decision making theory. And the decision to withdraw from the agreement had previously caused concern and criticism among the international community. Now, the return of the United States demonstrates a renewed commitment to participate in global efforts and take the lead in the fight against climate change. As such, the United States' return to the Paris Agreement represents a major international shift by strengthening global cooperation, encouraging the participation of other countries, influencing energy and economic policies, and restoring the United States' image as a global leader on climate change. Cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors is key in implementing this policy, demonstrating the US commitment to climate change and environmental sustainability.

But to effectively safeguard the climate, the international community must commit to reducing

greenhouse gas emissions, protecting and rehabilitating ecosystems, and supporting clean technologies and funding for developing countries. Global agreements like the Paris Agreement need to be rigorously enforced, supported by widespread environmental education and awareness. Collaboration and concrete action from all countries is key to ensuring a sustainable future for the planet.

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