



NATIONAL SECURITY PRINCIPLES

NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

Our first responsibility as Members of Congress is to provide for the common defense and general welfare of our nation. As New Democrats, we recognize that the United States and its allies are safest when Congress exercises its duties and authority in guiding foreign and national security policy. We believe in the core American values of liberty, equality, and opportunity, and strive to ensure they are a part of our national security agenda.

America must have a strong military because there are real threats that exist, but we must also recognize that not every problem can or should be solved with force. That's why the New Democrat Coalition is committed to smart power, including a comprehensive national security strategy that uses our full range of tools to protect American lives, advance American values, and support American interests around the globe. This means investing in a broad array of military, diplomatic, foreign aid, intelligence, and economic priorities to ensure the United States retains its role as a global leader in the 21st century.

We do so in the face of serious challenges to our national security. American adversaries increasingly operate in the gray spaces of international law and are investing in efforts to establish themselves as global leaders through technology, military and geopolitical aggression, and economic means. State actors in Iran and North Korea are pursuing efforts and capabilities that put our nation and allies at risk. Asymmetric threats including violent extremism and an evolving terrorist risk continue to require our attention. Simultaneously, climate change is exacerbating regional conflict and increasing the frequency of destructive weather events. All of this is occurring as America finds itself isolated from our allies and the broader world, resulting in a version of America that is diminished on the world stage.

To address these challenges, we have developed a national security strategy that promotes the safety and prosperity of Americans and the betterment of a safer, more peaceful world. The United States must foster an international order that enhances the security and success of our nation and our partners. The New Democrat Coalition's vision for national security reflects the evolving and interconnected nature of the challenges and opportunities we face, with a firm commitment to maintaining our role as a guiding light for freedom and Democracy around the world.

PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The United States government has no greater responsibility than protecting the American people. We must do so by continuing to invest in our military advantage, maintaining a strong global posture, and leading collective action with our partners. This will require combatting terrorism at home and abroad, securing global prosperity, establishing and defending norms in cyberspace, hardening critical infrastructure, seriously recommitting to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and preventing and mitigating impending global crises.

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We can and must do all this while upholding core American values of diversity, civil liberties and inclusion. That means offering no quarter to the racism and xenophobia that emboldens our enemies, inspires domestic terrorists, and isolates the United States.

- Invest in the sustainment, modernization, and operation of our military to ensure that the United States maintains our technological and strategic edge over our adversaries.
- Create and sustain diplomatic and military alliances to meet international security challenges through collective action.
- Strengthen America's critical infrastructure through cyber awareness, resilience, and intelligence so all facets of American life - civilian, military and business - are prepared to defend against attacks that threaten our safety, privacy, and prosperity.
- Develop capabilities and policies that meet our adversaries in the increasingly frequent domain of gray space operations, including both cyber and space.
- Craft and carry out a comprehensive global counterterrorism strategy that emphasizes addressing the root causes of terrorism, elevates preventive tools, fully funds diplomatic and development initiatives, and deploys America's unmatched intelligence capabilities to prevent the chaos and instability upon which terrorist organizations prey.
- Recommit to non-proliferation to keep nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons out of the hands of our adversaries, relying heavily on intelligence and diplomatic efforts - including treaties - to get the job done.
- Recognize the rise of domestic terrorism, including white supremacists, and invest in serious efforts to understand, identify, and thwart potential actors and their access to weapons and resources.
- Leveraging diplomatic channels and intelligence, ensure Americans are informed of any threats or considerations ahead of travels abroad, and in the event of a threat or detainment, receive all reasonable support from the U.S. government for their safe return.
- Support our troops at all stages, especially with job training, medical care, and protection from financial exploitation as they transition to civilian life.

PRIORITIZE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Our position as a global leader requires an enduring commitment to robust and resilient alliances that stand up to our adversaries. The United States is made stronger through its alliances and its leadership role in international organizations around the world. We must invest in those relationships and organizations to help foster a world that increasingly exhibits democratic principles and widespread prosperity.

- Reinforce the United States' commitment to the international order that has guided the world since World War II and allowed us to share the burden of security arrangements.
- Strengthen our regional commitments – and our alliances and partnerships -- with a global posture that is ready to lead in the new era of great-power competition, as well as form new alliances in the regions.
 - Recommit to our European and NATO allies in the face of Russian aggression and other international threats.

- Expand engagement in the Asia-Pacific region by working with regional partners like India, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, to preserve U.S. influence, boost economic collaboration in the region, and provide a counter-balance to adversaries, including China.
- Strengthen our relationships with Israel, Egypt, Jordan and other Middle East partners to take a more active role in leading diplomatic efforts to form new alliances in the region and ensure long-term political stability.
- Invest in the future of Africa by supporting growth in its economies, improving democratic governance and rule of law, and supporting human rights and basic freedoms.
- Reaffirm America's opposition to authoritarian regimes, such as those in Russia, North Korea, Syria, and Democratic Republic of Congo, rather than permitting their bad behavior.
- Ensure that the United States remains an international leader by taking initiative in U.S. aid programs, international organizations, and the production of international agreements that advance cooperation, human rights, standards for global economic activity, and create the conditions for robust enforcement of international agreements.
- Build bi-partisan consensus around America's national security strategy so our allies and adversaries alike can remain confident that America will follow through with its commitments.
- Utilize American medical resources and expertise to save lives and stabilize countries with public health crises.
- Resume the United States' role as the global leader in addressing the threat posed by climate change.
- Preserve and promote global commerce, support the economic prosperity of our allies and developing nations, and ensure international sea lanes and norms are respected.
- Elevate the standards for 21st century trade agreements and enable the United States to robustly enforce trade obligations.

PROMOTE AMERICAN VALUES AND DEMOCRACY

The United States' global leadership is rooted in our willingness to build others up, to lead by example, and to maintain the global order that makes peace, commerce, and the sharing of ideas possible. We believe diplomacy and foreign aid are paramount to this effort and make the world and our nation a safer and more prosperous place.

The United States is at its best when it helps inspire hope and opportunity. These are the seeds of freedom and Democracy that lift up America and our allies, build bridges to new partnerships, and allow Democracy to flourish around the globe.

- Promote and defend American values of democracy, transparency, rule of law, and global human rights around the world through aid and diplomacy.
- Counter malicious efforts and propaganda at home and abroad that undermine election security, democratic values and processes.

- Use all levers of influence, including diplomatic and -- when necessary and appropriate -- economic, to encourage societal reforms including non-discrimination, equality, and protection and integration of disenfranchised groups in nations with histories of oppression.
- Build a culture of national service and cross-regional integration here at home as a foundation for our efforts abroad. Healing rifts at home is a prerequisite for strength overseas.
- Assert Congress's oversight role in the use of military force and committing resources overseas.
- Recognize that the diversity of our communities strengthens our nation and economy, and establish immigration policies that protect our borders, welcome refugees, treat new and existing immigrants with dignity and due process, recognize the important role and contributions of our immigrant communities, and create a pathway to citizenship for those who have made or seek to make a home here.
- Reject antisemitism, racism, xenophobia, and discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation or gender identity wherever it is found and ensure our communities are safe and welcoming.

INVEST IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

America's global leadership is made possible through a healthy and modern economy that fully supports our national security objectives. That means our continued strength requires an educated workforce, a commitment to cutting edge research and development, and investment in both physical infrastructure and human capital.

We cannot turn our backs on the needs of American workers, American companies, or American scientific leaders who make our modern prosperity possible. We must also keep a stern eye to America's debt and deficit, both of which have the potential to weaken our position as the global economic and military leader.

- Address our debts, deficits, and growing inequality in a responsible manner to ensure we have the long-term resources to fund our domestic and international priorities.
- Develop a diverse and skilled workforce to ensure we have the capacity to compete in the global market.
- Fund robust research, development, and deployment in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, and commercial space to maintain our technological superiority.
- Support Americans at all levels so our economy reflects the strength of a nation that can lead around the globe.
- Transform the energy sector to address the national security threat of climate change, while simultaneously positioning our nation to lead in the next generation energy economy.
- Lead the technological revolutions of the future and ensure we protect the balance of innovation for consumers and Americans' constitutional right to privacy.
- Enact a federal acquisition process that encourages competition and ensures we procure the right products and systems in the most efficient, effective, and affordable manner possible.
- Leverage the innovation of the American economy by providing pathways for non-traditional suppliers.