

U.S. withdraws from UNFCCC

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The U.S. will be even more isolated on the international stage once President Donald Trump's executive order withdrawing the country from 66 international bodies goes into effect. This is particularly true in regard to global engagement on climate change.

The directive includes a withdrawal from the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, a 34-year-old treaty signed by all countries in the world that provides the foundations for ongoing global negotiations to address the climate crisis. The U.S. Senate unanimously ratified the treaty in 1992. It's unclear if the president has the authority to unilaterally withdraw the country from a treaty.

The Trump Administration early in its term had announced exiting the Paris climate agreement, and that goes into effect Jan. 20th. Withdrawal from the global climate treaty will take effect a year after giving formal notice to the United Nations. The U.S. will then be the only country in the world not participating in global efforts to address climate change.

President Trump's executive order also withdraws the U.S. from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the scientific body that provides regular assessments on climate change and the potential impact of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Many of the Mercy Justice Team's Catholic partners have expressed great dismay at the administration's withdrawal from these two bodies.