

Operation Truth

Trump is not protecting his people when he withdraws the U.S. from the Paris Accords

Ricardo Lagos
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I cannot say that Donald Trump surprised me with his announcement that he would withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Accords – we saw this coming. But it did awake a powerful desire in myself to say: I protest!

This protest is motivated by moral and political convictions, faced with a series arguments full of distortions and falsehoods. To say Paris was a global conspiracy against the U.S. economy is to substantially alter the intention of the contents of COP21. Every country voluntarily committed to reducing the greenhouse effect, including the U.S. How can we accept that the leader of the world's superpower says that he “was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris”? This is a major fallacy because climate change is not only an issue for Pittsburgh, it is an issue for all of humanity.

Because of this, I protest when Trump says that he is inspired by “the solemn promise to protect the U.S.A. and its citizens,” because his decision protect neither his country or his people. Climate change does not respect national borders. If the average temperature increases by 2°C, disastrous effects will extend to all continents. It will also extend to the regions that voted for Trump.

I protest because Trump spoke from a myopic political perspective, which is unacceptable for the leader of the world's super power. He said that he is “someone who is deeply concerned about the environment,” but he ignores the U.S.'s historic role in atmospheric pollution – the U.S. is the biggest emitter of greenhouse gasses, starting at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and continuing for more than two centuries. These gases, especially CO₂ and methane, remain in the atmosphere for 100-150 years. The U.S.'s responsibility in this process has been studied: it comes close to 30%. In Paris, and before in Kyoto, it was decided that each nation's response to climate change should be in accordance with their role in the crisis. Along with the U.S., Russia, the EU, Japan, China and India (the latter two major contaminators today) accepted responsibility to reduce emissions in accordance with their historic impact.

How can I not protest against the deception and weakness in Trump's decision when it is supported only by the National Economic Research Associates report? This source is questioned because it presents projections about the U.S. economy without taking into account new economic developments driven by technologic changes. If it had considered, for example, the Environmental Performance Index prepared by a large group of academics brought together by

Yale University, it would not have said that the U.S. is the world leader in environmental issues. There, the U.S. is listed as number 26.

The Accord cannot be renegotiated just because one country wants it. Trump and his advisors know this, but they still put on this show. Germany, Italy, and France should say no, as should the Secretary General of the UN. Neither can Trump leave the Accord before 2020. So, what is he looking for? Perhaps, like many people suspect, he wants to delay the issue until the next presidential election.

All of this calls for an “Operation Truth” with international reach. To the governors of California, Washington, New York, and others of the 70 states and cities: you are not alone in your fight. We appreciated the vision of the future that you set forward when you ratified your support of the Accord, creating policies and committing resources. Also included are those who, from large corporations and the academic/intellectual world, feel that the U.S. should unite with the rest of the world to confront a global crisis. We have an opportunity for a great Operation Truth, in which we use all information resources available to demonstrate that Americans are committed to the work of saving the planet. Through networks, conferences, influential debates, and artistic events, lets reinforce the importance and urgency of all that was agreed upon in Paris.

Trump’s environmental advisors have abandoned him, saying that his decision shows “much ignorance.” This is the challenge – to denounce ignorance with weapons of truth.

Ricardo Lagos is a former President of Chile and former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change.