

An Equitable Response to Climate Change

Century International's *Blueprint for a Progressive U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East*

What's at stake:

The Middle East is uniquely vulnerable to climate change because of the interplay between environmental degradation, bad governance, and cross-border competition over water. At the same time, the region's economies depend on oil and gas, making them unreliable partners in climate mitigation. Failure to confront the Middle East's climate emergency will bring even more chaos and human misery.

The opportunity:

America can incentivize and empower Middle Eastern governments to adapt, with measures like supporting transitions to renewable energy. But to be effective, the United States needs to approach climate justice as a question of human rights and of shared global prosperity, rather than as just a security problem.

Executive actions:

- With U.S. financial aid, prioritize just climate transitions and reducing inequality.
- Use influence in international financial institutions to promote reform.
- Lead water diplomacy in the region, especially for the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates.
- Support green energy and a cleaner oil industry in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Link hard security agreements to climate progress.
- Invest in green energy in the United States to reduce petrostate influence.

Congressional actions:

- Fund a U.S.-led climate bank for the Middle East and North Africa.
- Fund an international climate finance agency.
- Overhaul intellectual property laws to promote decarbonization.

Read the full recommendations in Century International's ["A Blueprint for a Progressive U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East."](#)