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Biden's National Security Strategy, two pages on Latin America



Sources: CLAE

The Joe Biden administration's new National Security Strategy claims that the United States will remain in the place of world leader, points to China as its main challenger in the global geopolitical dispute, proposes to control a dangerous Russia, and affirms that Latin America is the region that most directly impacts the United States.

The White House on Wednesday laid out a national security strategy long delayed by the Ukraine crisis, which does not include major shifts in thinking or introduce major new doctrines for a foreign policy focused on containing China's rise, and which reiterates that U.S. leadership is key to overcoming global threats such as climate change and the rise of "authoritarian regimes."

Even after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, China represents the most significant challenge to the world order, the document states, stressing that the United States must win the arms

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and economic race with the superpower, if it hopes to maintain its influence around the world.

Unlike the documents presented by his predecessors in office, the Biden administration's strategy addresses as a key national security issue the internal threat to the American democratic system. It also addresses the threat posed by domestic terrorism in the United States and declares that the country will not tolerate outside interference in its elections.

In the strategy released on Wednesday the 12th, Biden points out that the need for American leadership is greater than ever, and reiterates his basic message that the conjuncture both domestically and internationally is defined by the battle between democracy and autocracy. The strategy "seeks to advance our vital interests and seek a free, prosperous and secure world using all elements of our national power," the document states.

Two pages for Latin America and the Caribbean

The strategy states that no region impacts the United States more directly than the Western Hemisphere, although the chapter dedicated to the Latin American and Caribbean region occupies only two of the 48 pages of the document, and almost at the end, marking one of the priorities: stopping migration.

The Bidenist document diagnoses that the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recession exacerbated old structural challenges, nurtured political and social unrest, "undermined faith in democracy's ability to comply, and generated unprecedented levels of irregular migration to the United States and through the region."

He adds that the United States will continue to build "regional security" by supporting efforts to confront both domestic and organized crime threats, and external threats from "malign actors" seeking to establish a military or intelligence presence in the region, in clear reference to China and Russia.

Against this background, it proposes revitalizing relations in order to build and maintain economic resilience, democratic stability, and citizen security within the hemisphere, and continues with the thread that the United States seeks to promote cooperation to generate inclusive and lasting economic growth.

For Washington, within this context the priority is to work with Mexico and Canada to promote a North American vision for the future, after proclaiming that the United States will promote the democratic stability of the region, including "protecting against external interference or coercion by China, Russia or Iran."

The document notes that through revitalized inter-American institutions, and in partnership with civil society and other governments, it will support democratic self-determination for the peoples of Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and any other country where the popular will is suppressed. It is interpreted that it is not the popular will to vote for candidates who are not to Washington's liking.

Enforce the rules

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan stressed to the press that the country needs to establish the rules of the road for the twenty-first century in several areas ranging from technology to investment, so that the international order continues to reflect its values and interests. He said that international alliances (NATO, in the Pacific and others) are at the center of this strategy, and affirmed that the Group of 7, now revitalized, has once again become a kind of steering committee for the free world on critical issues.

"The People's Republic of China harbors the intention and, increasingly, the ability to reconfigure the international order in favor of one that tilts the global playing field to its advantage, even as the United States remains committed to managing competition between our countries responsibly," Sullivan said.

The official stressed that the United States must manage the relationship with China while facing a set of transnational challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, contagious diseases, terrorism, the energy transition and inflation.

Biden has yet to resolve some key foreign policy debates, such as Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods, which cost importers billions, and faces other new issues such as the erosion of relations with Saudi Arabia and India's dependence on Russian energy.

Sullivan echoed Biden's comments earlier in the week that the United States is "reassessing" its relationship with Saudi Arabia after OPEC+ announced last week that it would cut its oil production target despite U.S. objections.

In short, the optics of the security vision combine strategic competition, especially with China, which it qualifies as the only competitor with both the intention and ability to reshape the international order, contain a dangerous Russia, and, at the same time, address shared transnational challenges – climate change, pandemic control, food security or inflation – in a cooperative way with others... but with the leadership of the United States, and according to its interests.

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Source: <https://estrategia.la/2022/10/13/la-estrategia-de-seguridad-nacional-de-biden-dos-paginas-sobre-latinoamerica/>

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