

Standing Panel on International Affairs

Fact Sheet



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International Affairs and Climate Action

Climate change is causing more frequent and more extreme catastrophes—floods, fires, severe winds, heat, and drought—with longer-term effects, including sea level rise. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that, across continents, “governance is the sole high-level constraint that enables adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Governance challenges are a core focus of the National Academy of Public Administration.

The Standing Panel on International Affairs posits the need to recast U.S. federalism to address the impacts of climate change, emphasizing the role of the Academy in this transformation. The Panel believes that the following principles and actions are fundamental to this effort.

1 Governance

The Academy has a special role in addressing climate adaptation, which requires transforming and empowering existing institutions and structures.

2

Adaptation vs. Mitigation

Adaptation requires a comprehensive, place-specific approach involving all levels of government, enterprises, and citizens.

3

Federal Challenges

The U.S. lacks a national climate adaptation plan. There are opportunities to integrate longstanding natural hazard institutions with new mitigation and adaptation institutions.

Actions We Can Take:

Comparative Governance Project

The Academy’s comparative project (including this linked initial report on the Panel website) engages U.S. and global experts and institutions for cross-country learning.

Climate Resilient Nation Initiative

The Academy, through collaboration between the International and Intergovernmental Panels, is building on work initiated by the Weather-Ready Nation program to develop risk data tools, identify needed intergovernmental structures, and ways to integrate extant hazard organizations with new adaptation needs.

Engaging with GAO and INTOSAI

The Academy is collaborating domestically with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on adaptation governance and engaging internationally with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) on its ClimateScanner project.

For more, visit the Academy’s Election 2024 page at www.napawash.org/election-2024-good-government