

Appendix

Travel and Foreign Engagement

Official travel provides an important opportunity for an administration to reward allies, solidify partnerships, and signal strategic shifts. While travel may be limited due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the next administration should prioritize the following international engagements, recommended in this report:

The president:

Canada: The president-elect should prioritize his first international engagement with Canada by traveling to the country prior to inauguration if possible—and if not, by participating in a public virtual event with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. After inauguration, the president should invite the Canadian prime minister to an early meeting at the White House. (see page 47)

The European Union (EU) and NATO: The president’s first international trip—as soon as such travel is possible—should be to Europe, with a first stop in Brussels to visit the EU and NATO headquarters. (see page 81)

Mexico: Before inauguration but after engagement with Canada, the president should extend an invitation to the Mexican president for either a virtual meeting or, if safe, one in the United States. After inauguration and following his first trip to Europe to visit the EU and NATO, the president should travel to Mexico to signal the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship. (see page 47)

The vice president:

Germany: In February 2021, the vice president should invest in mending the rift between the United States and its allies by leading a high-profile delegation to the Munich Security Conference, either virtually or in person. (see page 82)

African democracies: Once travel is permitted, the vice president should lead a high-level U.S. delegation to visit key democratic African countries, signaling a new era in productive relations. (see page 85)

The Cabinet:

Mexico: The secretaries of state, homeland security, energy, and commerce should each prioritize engagement with Mexico, either virtually or in person, to pursue a coordinated, forward-looking agenda on bilateral issues such as trade, energy, and migration. (see page 83)

Japan, South Korea, and Australia: In a show of support for America's democratic allies in the Asia-Pacific region, the secretaries of defense and state should prioritize a joint visit to Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand—ideally within the first 100 days or virtually, pending health restrictions. (see page 84)