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Byline: By Associated Press

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WASHINGTON, D. C.: The leaders of Russia and China put aside their raw-worded disputes with US President Joe Biden on Thursday (Friday in Manila) long enough to pledge international cooperation on cutting climate-wrecking coal and petroleum emissions in a livestreamed summit showcasing America's return to the fight against global warming.

Neither Vladimir Putin nor Xi Jinping immediately followed the United States and some of its developed allies in making specific new pledges to reduce damaging fossil fuel pollution during the first day of the two-day US-hosted summit.

But climate advocates hoped the high-profile — if glitch-ridden — virtual gathering would kickstart new action by major polluters, paving the way for a November UN meeting in Glasgow critical to drastically slowing climate change over the coming decade.

The entire world faces “a moment of peril” but also “a moment of opportunity,” Biden declared, speaking from a TV-style chrome-blue set for the virtual summit of 40 world leaders. Participants appeared one after the other onscreen for what appeared to be a mix of live and recorded addresses.

“The signs are unmistakable,” Biden said. “The science is undeniable. The cost of inaction keeps mounting.” Biden's new US commitment, timed to the summit, would cut America's fossil fuel emissions as much as 52 percent by 2030.

It comes after four years of international withdrawal from the issue under President Donald Trump, who mocked the science of climate change and pulled the United States out of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord.

Biden's administration this week is sketching out a vision of a prosperous, clean-energy United States, where factories churn out cutting-edge batteries and electric cars for export, line workers re-lay an efficient national electrical grid and crews cap abandoned oil and gas rigs and coal mines.

But Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell dismissed the administration's plans as costly and ineffective. “This is quite the one-two punch,” McConnell said in a Senate speech on Thursday. “Toothless requests of our foreign adversaries . . . and maximum pain for American citizens.”

At the summit, Japan announced its own new 46-percent emissions reduction target and South Korea said it would stop public financing of new coal-fired power plants, potentially an important step toward persuading China and other coal-reliant nations to curb building and funding of new ones as well.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, one of the leaders shown watching summit proceedings in the coronavirus pandemic's familiar Brady Bunch-style multibox conference screen, said his nation

would up its fossil fuel pollution cuts from 30 percent to at least 40 percent.

Travel precautions under the pandemic compelled the summit to play out on livestream, limiting opportunities for spontaneous interaction and negotiation. Its opening hours were sometimes marked by electronic echoes, random beeps and off-screen voices.

But the summit also marshaled an impressive display of the world's most powerful leaders speaking on the single issue of climate change.

China's Xi, whose country is the world's biggest emissions culprit followed by the United States, spoke first among the other global figures. He made no reference to disputes over territorial claims, trade and other matters that had made it uncertain until Wednesday that he would even take part in the US summit.

And he said China would work with America in cutting emissions. "To protect the environment is to protect productivity and to boost the environment is to boost productivity. It's as simple as that," Xi said.