

Excerpts on Trade Language from Platform

In the past, with Bill Clinton and his free trade Administration in charge, activists have been lucky to get fair trade issues mentioned in DNC state and national platforms.

This final 2008 platform draft, at over 57 pages, includes more than 3000 words across 24 separate pages on trade and globalization. The Obama Agenda describes trade agreements as major tool to leverage labor and environmental standards, human rights, poverty alleviation, climate control, national security and a dozen other issues.

Highlights:

- Articulates his vision that trade policies “are not sustainable if they favor the few rather than the many.”
- States that trade deals “must not come as blank checks, and our support will only be “coupled with an insistent call for reform”.
- Promise to reform key global institutions—including the WTO and the G-8—so they “will be more reflective of 21st century realities.”
- Specifically states the WTO “must improve transparency and accountability”.
- Promise that consumer products coming in from other countries must be truly safe, with a requirement that the FTC protect vulnerable consumer populations.
- Promise to enforce trade laws that safeguard workers and farmers “from unfair trade practices—including currency manipulation, lax consumer standards, illegal subsidies, and violations of workers’ rights and environmental standards”.
- Promise of enforceable international labor and environmental standards.
- Promise that not future bilateral “will stop the government from protecting the environment, food safety, or the health of its citizens; give greater rights to foreign investors than to U.S. investors; require the privatization of our vital public services; or prevent developing country governments from adopting humanitarian licensing policies to improve access to life-saving medications.”
- Promise to stand firm against bilateral agreements that fail to live up to these benchmarks, with commitment to strive to achieve them in the multilateral framework.
- Promise to amend NAFTA so that it works better for all three North American countries.
- Promise to modernize and expand Trade Adjustment Assistance.
- Promise of a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank to create nearly two million new good jobs.
- Major Focus on U.S. renewable energy infrastructure investment, especially the use government procurement policies to incentivize job creation.
- Repeated calls to use trade as leverage for human rights, democracy, economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation.
- Repeated ties of trade agreements to support for strong legislatures, independent judiciaries, free press, vibrant civil society, honest police forces, religious freedom, equality for women and minorities, and the rule of law.
- Promise to address climate change with “binding and enforceable commitments to reducing emissions, especially for those that pollute the most: the United States, China, India, the European Union, and Russia.
- Promise to promote economic development in migrant-sending nations, to reduce incentives for immigration.

Trade and Globalization Excerpts are listed below. (Emphasis added.)

Main Trade Section - Pages 26 and 27

“Smart, Strong, and Fair Trade Policies”

We believe that trade should strengthen the American economy and create more American jobs, while also laying a foundation for democratic, equitable, and sustainable growth around the world. Trade has been a cornerstone of our growth and global development, but we will not be able to sustain this growth if it favors the few rather than the many. We must build on the wealth that open markets have created, and share its benefits more equitably.

Trade policy must be an integral part of an overall national economic strategy that delivers on the promise of good jobs at home and shared prosperity abroad. We will enforce trade laws and safeguard our workers, businesses, and farmers from unfair trade practices—including currency manipulation, lax consumer standards, illegal subsidies, and violations of workers’ rights and environmental standards. We must also show leadership at the World Trade Organization to improve transparency and accountability, and to ensure it acts effectively to stop countries from continuing unfair government subsidies to foreign exporters and non-tariff barriers on U.S. exports.

We need tougher negotiators on our side of the table—to strike bargains that are good not just for Wall Street, but also for Main Street. We will negotiate bilateral trade agreements that open markets to U.S. exports and include enforceable international labor and environmental standards; we pledge to enforce those standards consistently and fairly.

We will not negotiate bilateral trade agreements that stop the government from protecting the environment, food safety, or the health of its citizens; give greater rights to foreign investors than to U.S. investors; require the privatization of our vital public services; or prevent developing country governments from adopting humanitarian licensing policies to improve access to life-saving medications.

We will stand firm against bilateral agreements that fail to live up to these important benchmarks, and will strive to achieve them in the multilateral framework. We will work with Canada and Mexico to amend the North American Free Trade Agreement so that it works better for all three North American countries. We will work together with other countries to achieve a successful completion of the Doha Round Agreement that would increase U.S. exports, support good jobs in America, protect worker rights and the environment, benefit our businesses and our farms, strengthen the rules-based multilateral system, and advance development of the world’s poorest countries.

Just as important, we will invest in a world-class infrastructure, skilled workforce, and cutting edge technology so that we can compete successfully on high-value-added products, not sweatshop wages and conditions. We will end tax breaks for companies that ship American jobs overseas, and provide incentives for companies that keep and maintain good jobs here in the United States. We will also provide access to affordable health insurance and enhance retirement security, and we will update and expand Trade Adjustment Assistance to help workers in industries vulnerable to international competition, as well as service sector and public sector workers impacted by trade, and we will improve TAA’s health care benefits. The United States should renew its own

commitment to respect for workers' fundamental human rights, and at the same time strengthen the ILO's ability to promote workers' rights abroad through technical assistance and capacity building.

Important Platform Excerpts on Trade, Job Outsourcing and Globalization

Page 6

We will provide immediate relief to working people who have lost their jobs . . .

Page 7

By early August, the economy had shed 463,000 jobs over seven straight months of job loss.

Page 8

We are living through an age of fundamental economic transformation. Technology has changed the way we live and the way the world does business. . . . new challenges have emerged. Today, jobs and industries can move to any country with an Internet connection and willing workers.

Our current President pursued misguided policies, missed opportunities, and maintained a rigid, ideological adherence to discredited ideas. Our surplus is now a deficit, and almost a decade into this century, we still have no coherent national strategy to compete in a global economy. . . . to the tens of millions of Americans without health insurance and the workers who have seen their jobs shipped overseas, too many Americans have been invisible to our current President and his party for too long.

Page 9

We will devote \$50 billion to jumpstarting the economy, helping economic growth, and preventing another one million jobs from being lost.

We support investments in infrastructure to replenish the highway trust fund, invest in road and bridge maintenance and fund new, fasttracked projects to repair schools. We believe that it is essential to take immediate steps to stem the loss of manufacturing jobs. Taking these immediate measures will provide good jobs and will help the economy today.

Today, Americans change jobs more frequently than ever and compete against workers around the world for pay and benefits.

Page 10

Sidebar: "In late 2006, the company sent my production job to Mexico and China and I was laid off. I could not afford COBRA premiums." – quoted at Listening to America National Hearing

Page 15

Over the last few decades, fundamental changes in the way we work and live have trapped too many American families between an economy that's gone global and a government that's gone AWOL.

Page 16 Investing in American Competitiveness

At a critical moment of transition like this one, Americans understand that, more than anything else, success will depend on the dynamism, determination, and innovation of the American people. But success also depends on national leadership that can move this country forward with confidence and a common purpose. In platform hearings, Americans called on their government to “invest back” in them and their country.

Page 17

We know that the jobs of the 21st century will be created in developing new energy solutions. The question is whether these jobs will be created in America, or abroad. We should use government procurement policies to incentivize domestic production of clean and renewable energy. Already, we've seen countries like Germany, Spain and Brazil reap the benefits of economic growth from clean energy. But we are decades behind in confronting this challenge.

We hear that call and we Democrats commit to fast-track investment of billions of dollars over the next ten years to establish a green energy sector that will create up to five million jobs. Good jobs, like those in Pennsylvania where workers manufacture wind turbines, the ones in the factory in Nevada producing components for solar energy generation plants, or the jobs that will be created when plug-in hybrids start rolling off the assembly line in Michigan.

Page 18

We will direct the **Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice to vigorously investigate and prosecute** market manipulation in oil futures.

This plan will create good jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. With these policies, we will protect our country from the national security threats created by reliance on foreign oil and global insecurity due to climate change.

A World Class Education for Every Child

In the 21st century, where the most valuable skill is knowledge, countries that out-educate us today will out-compete us tomorrow. In the platform hearings, Americans made it clear that it is morally and economically unacceptable that our high-schoolers continue to score lower on math and science tests than most other students in the world and continue to drop-out at higher rates than their peers in other industrialized nations.

Page 21 (example)

“Our plant is closing in a year and, we hear, going to Mexico. With one year left before I can retire, I could end up losing my pension. I'm two years away from my retirement, but

I'm not going to quite make it. They tell me I can go to another factory, but I'd start out at lower pay and at the bottom of the rung. I feel like I'd be throwing everything away I've worked for over the last 24 years. The closest factory is three hours away. I've never really been interested in elections before. And honestly, the first time I ever voted was in the primary of this year. But everything seems more important to me this year. I've decided to get more involved. It's not the time to sit and watch the world go by. I know this year, with the economy, we've got to elect Senator Obama." –David Landrum, Bloomington, Indiana (Listening to America National Hearing)

Page 21

Invest in Manufacturing and Our Manufacturing Communities

We will invest in American jobs and finally **end the tax breaks that ship jobs overseas**. We will create an Advanced Manufacturing Fund to provide for our next generation of innovators and job creators; we will expand the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and create new job training programs for clean technologies. We will bring together government, private industry, workers, and academia to turn around the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy and provide assistance to automakers and parts companies to encourage retooling of facilities in this country to produce advanced technology vehicles and their key components. We will support efforts like the recently proposed Senate Appropriations measure that gives manufacturers access to low-interest loans to help convert factories to build more fuel-efficient vehicles. And we will invest in a clean energy economy to create up to five million new green-collar jobs. Our manufacturing communities need immediate relief. And we will help states and localities whose budgets are strained in times of need. **We will modernize and expand Trade Adjustment Assistance**. We will help workers build a safety net, with health care, retirement security, and a way to stay out of crippling debt. We will partner with community colleges and other higher education institutions, so that we're training workers to meet the demands of local industry, including environmentally-friendly technology.

Page 22

Creating New Jobs by Rebuilding American Infrastructure

A century ago, Teddy Roosevelt called together leaders from business and government to develop a plan for the next century's infrastructure. It falls to us to do the same. Right now, we are spending less than at any time in recent history and far less than our international competitors on this critical component of our nation's strength. **We will start a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank that can leverage private investment in infrastructure improvements, and create nearly two million new good jobs**. We will undertake projects that maximize our safety and security and ability to compete, which we will fund as we bring the war in Iraq to a responsible close.

A Connected America

In the 21st century, our world is more intertwined than at any time in human history. This new connectedness presents us with untold opportunities for innovation, but also new challenges. We will protect the Internet's traditional openness and ensure that it remains a dynamic platform for free speech, innovation, and creativity. We will implement a

national broadband strategy (especially in rural areas, and our reservations and territories) that enables every American household, school, library, and hospital to connect to a world-class communications infrastructure. We will rededicate our nation to ensuring that all Americans have access to broadband and the skills to use it effectively.

Page 23

We, the American farmer, have the ability, the enthusiasm, the skills, the tools, and the fierce sense of patriotism to win the war on foreign oil and still provide the food and fiber in a safe manner for not only for this country, but for the rest of the world.

Page 24

We will shut down the corporate loopholes and tax havens and use the money so that we can provide an immediate middle-class tax cut that will offer relief to workers and their families.

Page 25 Reforming Financial Regulation and Corporate Governance

We have let the special interests put their thumbs on the economic scales. . . . we do believe that government has a role to play in advancing our common prosperity: by providing stable macroeconomic and financial conditions for sustained growth; by demanding transparency; and by ensuring fair competition in the marketplace. We will reform and modernize our regulatory structures and will work to promote a shift in the cultures of our financial institutions and our regulatory agencies. . . and to meet the challenges of increasing global competitiveness, America will lead innovation in corporate responsibility to create jobs and leverage our private sector entrepreneurial leadership to help build a better world.

Page 26

We must guarantee that consumer products coming in from other countries are truly safe, and will call on the Federal Trade Commission to ensure vulnerable consumer populations, such as seniors, are addressed.

Page 28

It is a strategy that contends with the many disparate forces shaping this century, including . . . uncertain supplies of energy, food, and water; the persistence of poverty and the growing gap between rich and poor; and extraordinary new technologies that send people, ideas, and money across the globe at ever faster speeds. Barack Obama will focus this strategy on seven goals . . . (vi) advancing democracy and development; and (vii) protecting our planet by achieving energy security and combating climate change.

Page 36 (Support Africa's Democratic Development)

U.S. engagement with Africa should reflect its vital significance to the U.S. as well as its emerging role in the global economy. We recognize Africa's promise as a trade and investment partner and the importance of policies that can contribute to sustainable economic growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation.

Many African countries have embraced democratization and economic liberalization. We will help strengthen Africa's democratic development and respect for human rights, while encouraging political and economic reforms that result in improved transparency and accountability. We will defend democracy and stand up for rule of law when it is under assault, such as in Zimbabwe.

Recommit to an Alliance of the Americas

We recognize that the security and prosperity of the United States is fundamentally tied to the future of the Americas. We believe that in the 21st century, the U.S. must treat Latin America and the Caribbean as full partners, just as our neighbors to the south should reject the bombast of authoritarian bullies. Our relationship with Canada, our long-time ally, should be strengthened and enhanced.

And we must build ties to the people of Cuba and help advance their liberty by allowing unlimited family visits and remittances to the island, while presenting the Cuban regime with a clear choice: **if it takes significant steps toward democracy, beginning with the unconditional release of all political prisoners, we will be prepared to take steps to begin normalizing relations.**

Page 38 (China)

We must also forge a more effective framework in Asia that goes beyond bilateral agreements, occasional summits, and ad hoc diplomatic arrangements. We need an open and inclusive infrastructure with the countries in Asia that can promote stability, prosperity, and human rights, and help confront transnational threats, from terrorist cells in the Philippines to avian flu in Indonesia. We will encourage China to play a responsible role as a growing power—to help lead in addressing the common problems of the 21st century. We are committed to a "One China" policy and the Taiwan Relations Act, and will continue to support a peaceful resolution of cross-Straits issues that is consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people of Taiwan. It's time to engage China on common interests like climate change, trade, and energy, even as we continue to **encourage its shift to a more open society and a market-based economy, and promote greater respect for human rights, including freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, uncensored use of the internet, and Chinese workers' right to freedom of association,** as well as the rights of Tibetans.

Page 39 Deepen Ties with Emerging Powers

We also will pursue effective collaboration on pressing global issues among all the major powers—including such newly emerging ones as China, India, Russia, Brazil, Nigeria, and South Africa. With India, we will build on the close partnership developed over the past decade. As two of the world's great, multi-ethnic democracies, the U.S. and India are natural strategic allies, and we must work together to advance our common interests and to combat the common threats of the 21st century. **We believe it is in the United States' interest that all of these emerging powers and others assume a greater stake in**

promoting international peace and respect for human rights, including through their more constructive participation in key global institutions.

Revitalize Global Institutions

To enhance global cooperation on issues from weapons proliferation to climate change, we need stronger international institutions. . . . We **support reforming key global institutions**—such as the U.N. Security Council and the G-8—so they will be more reflective of 21st century realities.

Page 39-40

Advancing Democracy, Development, and Respect for Human Rights

No country in the world has benefited more from the worldwide expansion of democracy than the United States. Democracies are our best trading partners, our most valuable allies, and the nations with which we share our deepest values. The United States must join with our democratic partners around the world to meet common security challenges and uphold our shared values whenever they are threatened by autocratic practices, coups, human rights abuses, or genocide.

Build Democratic Institutions

The Democratic Party reaffirms its longstanding commitment to support democratic institutions and practices worldwide. A more democratic world is a more peaceful and prosperous place. Yet democracy cannot be imposed by force from the outside; it must be nurtured with moderates on the inside by building democratic institutions. The United States must be a relentless advocate for democracy and put forward a vision of democracy that goes beyond the ballot box. We will **increase our support for strong legislatures, independent judiciaries, free press, vibrant civil society, honest police forces, religious freedom, equality for women and minorities, and the rule of law.** In new democracies, we will support the development of civil society and representative institutions that can protect fundamental human rights and improve the quality of life for all citizens, including independent and democratic unions. In non-democratic countries, we pledge to work with international partners to assist the efforts of those struggling to promote peaceful political reforms. Ongoing funding to the National Endowment for Democracy and other U.S. government-funded democracy programs reflects American values and serves our interests.

It is time to make the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which aim to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015, America's goals as well. We need to invest in building capable, democratic states that can establish healthy and educated communities, develop markets, and generate wealth.

Page 40-41

But if America is going to help others build more just and secure societies, our trade deals, debt relief, and foreign aid must not come as blank checks. We will recognize the fragility of small nations in the Caribbean, the Americas, Africa, and Asia and work with them to successfully transition to a new global economy. **We will couple our**

support with an insistent call for reform, to combat the corruption that rots societies and governments from within. As part of this new funding, we will create a \$2 billion Global Education Fund that will bring the world together in eliminating the global education deficit with the goal of supporting a free, quality, basic education for every child in the world. Education increases incomes, reduces poverty, strengthens communities, prevents the spread of disease, improves child and maternal health, and empowers women and girls. We cannot hope to shape a world where opportunity outweighs danger unless we ensure that every child everywhere is taught to build and not to destroy.

We will modernize our foreign assistance policies, tools, and operations in an elevated, empowered, consolidated, and streamlined U.S. development agency. Development and diplomacy will be reinforced as key pillars of U.S. foreign policy, and our civilian agencies will be staffed, resourced, and equipped to address effectively new global challenges.

Page 42 Human Trafficking

We will address human trafficking—both labor and sex trafficking—through strong legislation and enforcement to ensure that trafficking victims are protected and traffickers are brought to justice. We will also address the root causes of human trafficking, including poverty, discrimination, and gender inequality, as well as the demand for prostitution.

Page 43 (Climate Control)

We need a global response to climate change that includes binding and enforceable commitments to reducing emissions, especially for those that pollute the most: the United States, China, India, the European Union, and Russia.

Page 45 (Immigration)

We must work together to pass immigration reform in a way that unites this country, not in a way that divides us by playing on our worst instincts and fears.

The American people are a welcoming and generous people, but those who enter our country's borders illegally, and those who employ them, disrespect the rule of the law.

We also need to do more to promote economic development in migrant-sending nations, to reduce incentives to come to the United States illegally.

Page 53-54 (No mention of fast Track) Open, Accountable, and Ethical Government

We will lift the veil of secret deals in Washington by publishing searchable, online information about federal grants, contracts, earmarks, loans, and lobbyist contacts with government officials.

We will not privatize public services for the sake of privatizing. We will use carefully crafted guidelines when determining whether to contract out any government service and whether a function is “inherently governmental.” We will provide improved

accountability, oversight, and management in the contracting process to protect the public.

We will have the wisdom to put the public interest above special interests.

Page 56 Partnership with Civic Institutions

Social entrepreneurs and leading nonprofit organizations are assisting schools, lifting families out of poverty, filling health care gaps, and inspiring others to lead change in their own communities. To support these results-oriented innovators, we will create a Social Investment Fund Network that invests in ideas that work, tests their impact, and expands the most successful programs. We will create an office to coordinate government and nonprofit efforts.

Also Of Interest:

- Page 7: "We cannot keep doing the same things and expect to get different results"
- Page 8: Use of the new term "fair economy" . . . "that will allow all Americans to take advantage of the opportunities of our new era."
- Page 14" "We will stop the abuse of privatization of government jobs. We will end the exploitative practice of employers wrongly misclassifying workers as independent contractors."
- Page 14: Shout out to Organized Labor
- Page 17: Shout out to Environmental Job Creation
- Page 23: Shout out to Farmers
- Page 24: Critique of unbridled Free Market
- Page 25: Argument for deep need of corporate oversight
- Pages 39-40: Strong Human Rights and Democracy focus, tied directly to trade
- Page 55: "We believe that our Constitution, our courts, our institutions, and our traditions work."

Appendix Segments on Fair Trade:

- Houston, TX, 7/20. "We support stimulation of our economy by the creation of jobs for infrastructure repair and ensuring we keep our jobs here by promoting small businesses and fair trade, not free trade."
- Portland, OR, 7/21. "All trade agreements and treaties must be reviewed with the well being of the citizens of the United States as the primary goal."
- Green Brook, NJ, 7/22. "We should be more willing to work with the global economy; at the same time, we should hold our trading partners to a higher standard."
- Chloe, WV, 7/26. "We resolve that free trade should be fair trade, for workers and consumers in all countries."