

Massachusetts UN Least Developed Countries Fund

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For some time now, Oxford Climate Policy has worked closely with a number of North American partners to promote the idea of sub-national contributions to multilateral climate funds (see [Finance for the Paris Climate Compact: The role of earmarked \(sub-\) national contributions](#)).

The idea had a first breakthrough in Paris, at COP 21 in 2015, when the Province of Quebec announced a CA\$ 6 million contribution to the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Fund. This was followed by announcements from the Belgian regional governments and the City of Paris ([In Paris it became 'chic' for sub-nationals to provide multilateral support for climate change finance. Now it must become 'de rigueur'!](#)).

It is highly unlikely that the present US administration will contribute to (UN) climate funds ([Hope for the best, prepare for the worst! What next with American climate finance?](#)). The only solution is to "[Think Local, Act Global!](#)"

We are therefore extremely pleased to be able to announce another breakthrough, this time in the US, facilitated by our partners at the [Institute for Sustainable Energy of Boston University](#). On 27 March, State Senator Michael Barrett filed [An Act enabling taxpayer donations to the Least Developed Countries Fund, an initiative of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) in the Massachusetts Senate.

Quite a number of US states, including Massachusetts, allow tax payers to earmark ("check-off") a share of their tax refund on their personal income tax form as a contribution to certain state

programmes. The Act introduced by Senator Barrett proposes a **Massachusetts UN Least Developed Countries Fund**, replenished through such a tax refund check-off programme and any other public and private sector contributions for the benefit of the [UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Fund](#). ([Fact sheet](#))

We hope that other sub-national authorities, particularly in the US, will follow suit in thinking local but acting global to enable the poorest and most vulnerable allies to combat climate change while reducing poverty.

- [Letter of Appreciation by the LDC Group Chair](#), 24 April 2017
- [Letter of Support by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary](#), 5 April 2017
- [“MA should finance climate change projects abroad: Barrett bill would allow tax refunds to go to UN fund”](#) *The Commonwealth Magazine*, 8 April 2017

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