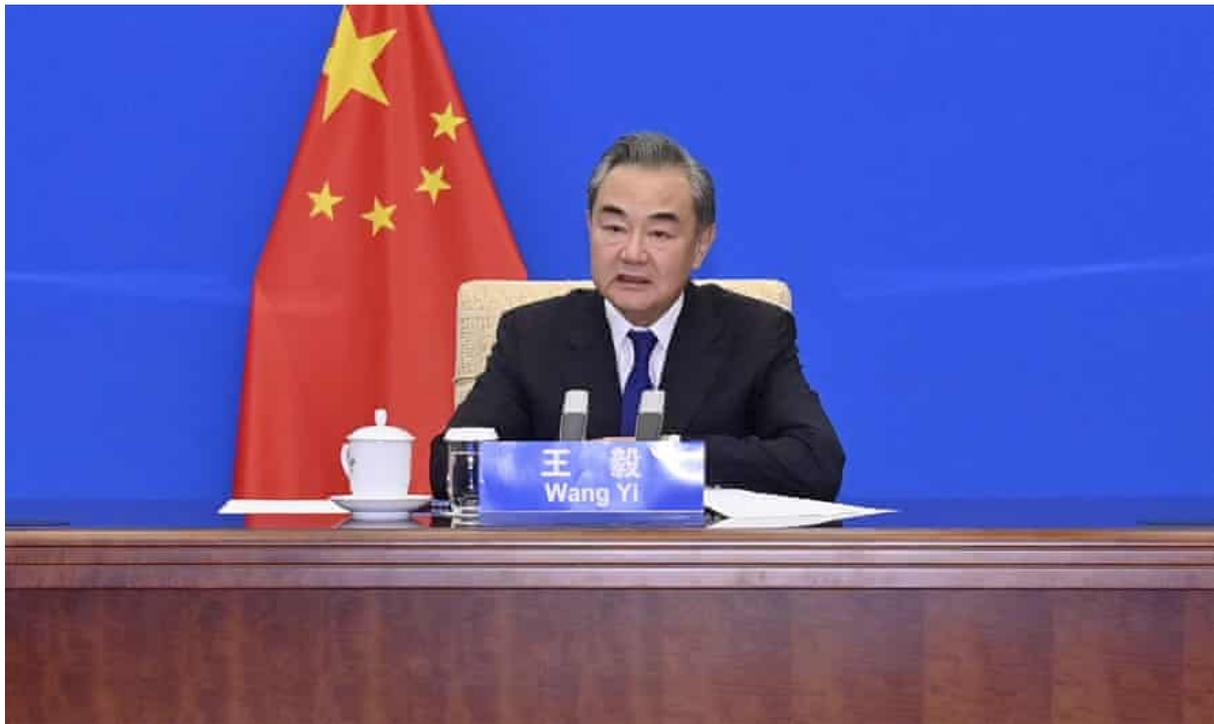


# China warns US poor relations could undermine progress on climate change

## Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi tells US climate envoy John Kerry cooperation on reducing emissions cannot be separated from the broader relationship



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meets with US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, not shown, via video link in China. Wang warned Kerry on Wednesday that deteriorating US-China relations could undermine their cooperation on climate change. Photograph: Yue Yuewei/AP

*Associated Press*

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Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi has warned US climate envoy John Kerry that deteriorating US-China relations could undermine cooperation between the two countries on climate change.

In a video link call on Wednesday, Wang told Kerry that such cooperation cannot be separated from the broader relationship and called on the US to take steps to improve ties, a foreign ministry statement said.

Kerry, who is in the Chinese city of Tianjin for climate talks with his Chinese counterparts, said the US is committed to cooperating with the rest of the world

on climate and encouraged China to take additional steps to reduce emissions, the US state department said.

Kerry, a former secretary of state, also said that China “plays a super-critical role” in the effort to combat climate change, according to a brief video clip from the meeting shown on CGTN, the international arm of state broadcaster CCTV.

China is the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases, followed by the US.

Relations between Washington and Beijing have been strained by disputes over trade, technology and human rights. But the sides have identified the climate crisis as an area for possible cooperation.

“China and the US have differences on some issues. In the meantime, we share common interests in a range of areas such as climate change,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily briefing on Wednesday.

“Both sides should maintain dialogue and communication on the basis of mutual respect and carry out mutually beneficial cooperation,” Wang said.



US seeks cooperation with China on climate but not at any price

China, the world's biggest coal user, obtains roughly 60% of its power from the fossil fuel and is the world's biggest source of greenhouse gases. It plans to build more coal-fired power plants but also to taper its use of the fossil fuel.

Beijing has pointed to historical US emissions as a reason to resist action while making advances in solar power and other renewable energy sources. China has set a target of generating 20% of the country's total energy consumption from renewables by 2025, becoming carbon-neutral by 2060 and reducing total emissions starting from 2030.

US president Joe Biden has announced a goal to cut up to 52% of US greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 – double the target set by president Barack Obama in the 2015 Paris climate accord. The 2030 goal vaults the US into the top tier of countries on climate ambition.

Kerry has called for stronger efforts to curb rising temperatures to no more than 1.5C over pre-industrial levels. He urged China to join the US in urgently cutting carbon emissions.

Global decarbonising efforts will come under the spotlight at Cop26, a UN conference to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in late November.