

## A Review of U.S. Nuclear Policy by Parties' Platforms

Jae Eun Choi<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Korea Nuclear International Cooperation Foundation, 989-111, Daedukdaero, Yuseong-Gu, Daejeon 305-33

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: cje@konicof.or.kr

### 1. Introduction

In the US presidential election held on November 3, 2020, Democratic Candidate Joe Biden was elected, and on January 20, 2021, he was officially inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States. Changes in existing policies or establishment of new policies, depending on the policies of the political parties in power, have a significant impact in various fields of the international society (diplomacy, security, energy, etc.). Besides, it will substantially influence Korea on the Korean Peninsula, where diverse geopolitical interests conflict.

Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to examine the nuclear-related aspects of the policies of the past US regime and its political parties and analyze what changes will occur in the future.

### 2. Parties' Platforms

In general, "Party Platform" means a policy of a large scale that the government or political party commits to the people. Most of the policies of that big chain are in line with the pledges of each party's presidential candidates.

The United States has a two-party system, consisting of Democrats and Republicans, and the presidents and political parties that have been elected are as follows.

And the main contents of each political party at the time of serving as president are as follows.

2001~2009	2009~2017	2017~2021	2021~
George W. Bush Republican	Barack Obama Democratic	Donald Trump Republican	Joe Biden Democratic

Major contents of nuclear-related policies by political party in the U.S.

Year	Democratic	Republican
2008	A World w/o Nuclear Weapons Secure Nuclear Weapons and the Materials to make them End the Production	A comprehensive strategy for reducing the world's nuclear stockpiles and preventing proliferation reducing the size of

	of Fissile Material End Cold War Nuclear Postures Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons De-Nuclearize North Korea	our nuclear arsenal the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons programs Iran Nuclear Power
2012	Reducing Nuclear Weapons Stockpiles Preventing Nuclear Proliferation Iran North Korea Securing Loose Nuclear Materials	Nuclear energy North Korea Iran
2016	Iran North Korea Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons	Modernize nuclear weapons and their delivery platforms the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons program Protection Against an Electromagnetic Pulse
2020	Nonproliferation longer-term goal of denuclearization reinforcing nuclear arms control Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) all zero-carbon technologies, including existing and advanced nuclear advanced nuclear that eliminates waste associated with conventional nuclear technology	<No New platform>

### 3. Congress

The United States Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the November

elections last year, Democrats in both the US House and the Senate won more than half.

Therefore, according to the pledges of the Democratic Party's platform and President Biden, it is expected that the policy will be promoted in an extensive framework. In particular, the Democratic Party, which traditionally emphasizes nuclear non-proliferation, occupies the chairman of the committee in charge of nuclear cooperation in the House and Senate, which is expected to have a significant impact on the approval of the nuclear agreement.

In the past, the signing of a Nuclear Cooperation Arrangement with Saudi Arabia, which was promoted by the Trump administration in the past, is not expected to pass through Congress due to the application of the Gold Standard, which includes abandonment of enrichment and reprocessing, and the demand for the conclusion of the IAEA Additional Protocol (AP).

#### **4. Conclusions**

Overall, the main nuclear-related items mentioned are 1) nuclear weapons reduction, 2) non-proliferation, 3) the North Korean nuclear issue, 4) Iran, and 5) carbon emissions/clean energy (nuclear power).

In general, whenever the Democratic Party and the Republican Party each take power, there has been a tendency to fully revised and promote the policies promoted by the other party. Currently, the Biden government is reviewing the issues that Trump has pushed forward and suspended. Still, it is a common issue that nuclear power is recognized as one of the clean energy sources that can reduce carbon emissions.

In particular, the most significant topic in the nuclear field of the Biden government is the advanced nuclear reactor (Small modular reactor). There is a need for continuous research and cooperation in related fields. However, it is expected that international cooperation will be more thoroughly reviewed in order to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation as the main nuclear policy of Biden and the Democratic Party in the past, as was the case with the Obama administration.

In this regard, continuous follow-up review will be needed to establish our nuclear energy policy with opinions reflected related fields in depth.

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1] Wikipedia
- [1] Democratic Party Platform, 2008~2020
- [2] Republican Party Platform, 2008~2016.
- [3] The White House