

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State, the senior executive department of the US Government, was established as the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1789 and renamed the Department of State the same year.

The Department of State advises the President in the formulation and execution of foreign policy. As Chief Executive, the President has overall responsibility for the foreign policy of the United States. The Department of State's primary objective in the conduct of foreign relations is to promote the long-range security and well-being of the United States. The Department analyses the facts relating to American overseas interests, makes recommendations on policy and future action, and takes the necessary steps to carry out established policy. In so doing, the Department engages in continuous dialogue with the American public, the Congress, other US government departments, and foreign governments; speaks for the United States in the United Nations and in more than 50 major international organisations in which the United States participates; and represents the United States at more than 800 international conferences annually.

Secretary of State: The Secretary of State, the principal foreign policy advisor to the President, is responsible for the overall direction, coordination, and supervision of US foreign relations and for the interdepartmental activities of the US Government overseas. The Secretary is the first-ranking member of the Cabinet, is a member of the National Security Council, and is in charge of the operations of the Department, including the Foreign Service.

Deputy Secretary of State: The Deputy Secretary of State is the Secretary's principal deputy and serves as Acting Secretary in the Secretary's absence. (Strobe Talbott is the Deputy Secretary of State-designate.)

Political Affairs: The Under Secretary for Political Affairs (Peter Tarnoff) assists the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the formulation and conduct of foreign policy and in the overall direction of the Department, including coordination of relations with other departments and agencies and interdepartmental activities of the US Government overseas.

Counselor: The Counselor (Timothy Wirth) is a principal officer of the Department, serving the Secretary as a special advisor and consultant on major problems of foreign policy. The Counselor conducts special international negotiations as directed by the Secretary and provides guidance to the appropriate bureaus with respect to such matters. (Note: Mr Wirth is also the Undersecretary for Global Affairs.)

Economic and Agricultural Affairs: The Under Secretary for Economic and Agricultural Affairs (Joan Spero) is principal advisor to the Secretary' and Deputy' Secretary' in the formulation and conduct of foreign economic policy. Specific areas for which the Under Secretary is responsible include international trade, agriculture, energy, finance, transportation, and relations with developing countries.

Arms Control and International Security Affairs: The Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs (Lynn Davis) is responsible for assuring the integration of all elements of the Foreign Assistance Programme as an effective instrument of US foreign policy and serves as Chairperson of the Arms Transfer Management Group. The Under Secretary is also responsible for international scientific and technological issues, communications and information policy, and technology transfers.

Management: The Under Secretary for Management (Richard Moose) is the principal management official of the Department. The Under Secretary serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary and deputy secretary on management matters, including direction of all budgetary, administrative, and personnel policies of the Department and Foreign Service. The Under Secretary also coordinates the activities of the Bureau of Personnel, the Bureau of Finance and Management Policy, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the Bureau of Refugee Programmes, the Office of Medical Services, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Foreign Service Institute, the Family Liaison Office, and the Office of Foreign Missions. The Under Secretary for Management's principal concern is the reconciliation of resources, both fiscal and personnel, with policy requirements.

Global Affairs: The Under Secretary for Global Affairs (Timothy Wirth) is responsible for matters pertaining to population, refugees, migration, the promotion of democracy and human rights, labour issues, narcotics, crime and international terrorism, and international environmental and scientific affairs.

Inspector General: The Office of the Inspector General (IG) of the Department of State and the Foreign Service arranges for, directs, and conducts inspections, investigations, and audits of Department offices and bureaus and its missions and posts overseas. The IG provides an independent and systematic assessment of how effectively foreign policy is being implemented and how the interests of the United States are being represented overseas, including a review of all activities, operations, and functions under the direction, coordination and supervision of the chiefs of missions overseas.

Regional Bureaus: Six Assistant Secretaries direct the activities of the geographic bureaus, which are responsible for US foreign affairs activities throughout the world. These are the Bureaus of African Affairs, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Inter-American Affairs, Near Eastern Affairs, and South Asian Affairs. The Assistant Secretaries of these bureaus are responsible for advising

the secretary regarding countries within their regional jurisdictions and for guiding the operation of US diplomatic establishments in the countries in their geographic areas. They also direct, coordinate, and supervise interdepartmental and interagency matters involving these regions. They are assisted in these duties by Deputy Assistant Secretaries and country Office Directors within their bureaus. The Office Directors and their staff have specific responsibility for working-level management of US relations with respect to their assigned countries.

The regional Assistant secretaries also serve as Chairpersons of the Interdepartmental Groups in the National Security Council system. These groups discuss and decide issues that can be settled at the Assistant Secretary level, including those arising out of the implementation of National Security decisions. They prepare policy papers for consideration by the Council and contingency papers on potential crisis areas for Council review.

Functional Bureaus: In addition to the regional bureaus, there are fifteen Assistant Secretaries directing the activities of functional bureaus and have the same type of functions as the regional Assistant Secretaries, but on functional matters. The functional bureaus are: Economic and Business Affairs, Intelligence and Research, International Communications and Information Policy, International Narcotics Matters, International Organisation.Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Medical Services, Public Affairs, Consular Affairs, Political-Military Affairs, Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Protocol, Human Rights and Democracy and Labour and Humanitarian Affairs, Population and Refugee Programmes and Migration, and Narcotics and Crime and Terrorism.