

# Support for U.S. Business at Home and Abroad

## Your Worldwide Business Partner

The U.S. Department of State leads U.S. Government efforts to provide effective support to American businesses overseas.

The State Department and its U.S. embassies around the world are working to level the playing field for American businesses. In many international markets, our officers are the eyes, ears, and in-country negotiators for U.S. business interests — from trade and investment to policy and cultural environment. As experts on host-country markets and business practices, State Department officers identify opportunities for American firms and advocate on their behalf. The U.S. Department of State is your partner in conducting business overseas.

- We help ensure that American farmers, business people, and workers have a level playing field on which to compete for foreign investment and trade;
- We negotiate market-opening trade agreements that expand opportunities for the sale of American products and services abroad;
- We promote and license exports that contribute tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy;
- We work to ensure the protection of American intellectual property rights; and,
- We help other countries develop strong free-market economies and become better trading partners for the United States.

## Your U.S. Department of State — A Message from the Secretary of State



**Colin L. Powell**  
U.S. Secretary of State

The success of American business in international markets is of vital national interest. More than 12 million American jobs now depend on export-related jobs that pay 13%–17% more than non-trade-related jobs. America's economic well-being, global leadership, and national security are all reinforced when American companies successfully compete in the global economy.

Supporting American firms in the global economy is a key objective of U.S. foreign policy and integral to the mission of State Department officers around the world.

*“U.S. economic interests and foreign policy are inseparable. We engage the business community in our foreign policy planning, advocate on behalf of U.S. businesses overseas, and promote innovation and American values around the world. The State Department values this partnership with the U.S. business community — it’s a partnership that promotes U.S. economic growth, international security, and democratic institutions everywhere.”*

## Your Rights and Opportunities

American businesses operating or expanding abroad can expect assistance from the U.S. Government team. As outlined in the State Department's **Bill of Rights for American Business**, these services include:

- Having your views heard and considered on foreign policy issues that affect your interests;*
- Being assured that the ground rules for the conduct of international trade are fair and nondiscriminatory;*
- Receiving assistance from well-trained and knowledgeable trade specialists in each overseas mission;*
- Benefiting from sound professional advice and analysis on the local political and business environment;*
- Gaining unique insights through networking assistance with contacts in key public and private-sector positions;*
- Obtaining active support and promotion in international bids and, where more than one U.S. firm is involved, even-handed support for all interested firms; and*
- Achieving amicable settlement of investment and trade disputes and, in cases of expropriation or similar action, obtaining prompt, adequate, and effective compensation.*

All Department of State programs and services are provided to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

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# Business success through business services

## Your U.S. Advocate for International Business

