



## Freedom of Information Act Request to the U.S. Department of State

May 4, 2026

Submitted electronically via Dept. of State FOIA Portal

Office of Information Programs and Services  
A/GIS/IPS/RL  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW, Suite B266  
Washington, DC 20520-0000

Re: FOIA Request for records concerning United States Withdrawal from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Framework Convention)

To the FOIA Officer:

The undersigned submits this request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, on behalf of the Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative, a nonprofit organization that publishes analysis and commentary concerning climate law and governance on its website.

CPR Initiative's request is directed to the Department of State as that is the entity most likely to possess the requested record. In particular, the Department's Office of Treaty Affairs states that it is responsible for the custody of U.S. treaty records and the publication of U.S. treaties and other international agreements, and that it provides guidance on U.S. and international treaty law and practice. <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/treaty-affairs>.

### Records requested

This request seeks two sets of records:

- (1) Records by which the United States withdrew, or notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the United States' withdrawal, from the Framework Convention, and
- (2) Records to and from the United Nations by which the United States may have rescinded, suspended or placed in abeyance that withdrawal, or that notification of withdrawal.

For reference as to (1) above: the Secretary General, on Feb. 27, 2026, communicated that he had received notification from the United States that “effected” a U.S. withdrawal from the Framework Convention. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2026/CN.102.2026-Eng.pdf>

The Secretary General’s communication also observed that the U.S. withdrawal will be effective commencing Feb. 27, 2027, consistent with paragraph 2 of article 25 of the Framework Convention which states, in relevant part, that “[a]ny such withdrawal shall take effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt by the Depository of the notification of withdrawal. . .” We have attached a copy of the Secretary-General’s notification hereto as Attachment 1.

For reference as to request (2) above: The President’s January 7, 2026, instruction to agency heads to “withdraw” the United States from 67 international initiatives required not formal withdrawal, but rather a cessation of participation with or funding of those projects. Specifically, it provided that, “[f]or United Nations entities, withdrawal means ceasing participation in or funding to those entities to the extent permitted by law.” We have attached that Presidential Memorandum hereto as Attachment 2 (see Memorandum at Section 1(c)).

Accordingly, the subsequent formal withdrawal of the US from the UNFCCC, as communicated by the Secretary General, appears to exceed the President’s Jan. 7 specific instruction. CPR Initiative therefore seeks the second set of records requested herein in part to gain and convey to the public an understanding of how this amplified action by the State Department came to pass, if that is what in fact occurred. CPR Initiative will also consider whether these records may support its position that formal withdrawal from the Framework Convention constitutes a grave diplomatic mistake, in which case CPR Initiative may then publicly urge your Department to reverse course.

Further as to request (2) above: we observe that, as of May 4, 2026, the Secretary-General’s Feb. 27, 2026, communication, C.N. 102.202, announcing the US notification of withdrawal, is no longer to be found in the public-access database of the United Nations’ Depository Notifications. <https://treaties.un.org/Pages/CNs.aspx?cnTab=tab1&clang=en>. It is for that reason, then, that in our request (2) above, we seek records evidencing any US action that may have rescinded, suspended or placed in abeyance the Feb. 27, 2026, formal withdrawal or notification of withdrawal.

This is important because, if the Department really has rescinded its earlier formal withdrawal from the Framework Convention, CPR Initiative wishes to be able to acknowledge and publicly support that reasonable reversal. That is, we wish to give credit, if and where credit is due. We note, in this regard, that we have found nothing in the general media to date about these specific questions, even though they are manifestly of considerable public importance.

### **Date range**

Please search for records created, sent, received, or maintained from January 6, 2026, through the completion date of your records search.

### **Format requested**

Please provide the requested records in electronic form, preferably as searchable PDFs with associated metadata.

### **Fee waiver request**

A waiver of all search, review, and duplication fees is requested under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Disclosure is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government, and it is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

As to the public interest element: the requested records bear directly on a matter of significant public importance: the legal mechanism by which the United States gave notice of withdrawal from the foundational global climate treaty and whether, as discussed, the notification conveyance effected a formal withdrawal from the Framework Convention that was neither contemplated nor sought by the President.

This question has especial importance to CPR Initiative and its readership (which includes the general public) since we have, in recent months, through our website and related communications, repeatedly questioned whether, in attempting to “unilaterally” withdraw the nation from the Framework Convention, the Administration has wrongfully intruded on prerogatives that the Constitution implicitly vests with the US Senate.

See, for instance:

- Remain in the Climate Treaty, <https://cprclimate.org/can-the-climate-treaty-survive/>;
- On unilateral withdrawal, <https://cprclimate.org/on-unilateral-withdrawal/>;
- The Global Fallout from America's Climate Retreat, <https://cprclimate.org/the-global-fallout-from-americas-climate-retreat/>;
- Illegality All Around: Wither the U.N. Climate Treaty, <https://cprclimate.org/illegality-all-around-whither-the-u-n-climate-treaty/>; and
- Remain-In: A Petition to Halt Trump's Unilateral Withdrawal from the World Climate Treaty, <https://cprclimate.org/2026-petition-to-the-united-states-senate/>.

That apparent arrogation of authority conflicts, in CPR Initiative's view, with a proper appreciation for the separation of powers. It is, moreover, an arrogation that we believe an informed public should not countenance.

If, however, that arrogation was a function of the Department's misinterpretation of the President's direction, and thus, at bottom, an unauthorized amplification of the President's Jan. 7, 2026 memorandum, then CPR Initiative may differently evaluate the situation, namely that it is one of government disfunction compounding an inadequate appreciation of the necessity for international cooperation and coordination in response to the global climate threat.

The requested disclosure thus would illuminate how the Department implemented the withdrawal directive, which office transmitted the notice, what text was actually communicated to the U.N. depositary, whether the notice tracked the legal predicates set forth in Article 25 of the Convention and the specific direction of the presidential memorandum, and whether the United States may have, on reconsideration, rescinded that formal withdrawal.

As we have already indicated above, Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative is a nonprofit public interest organization that disseminates information through articles and blog posts, and which also advocates on climate law and policy. The organization's aim, in part, is to galvanize the public to ensure that our government, preferably sooner than later, assumes a mantle of leadership in combatting climate change that threatens our security and posterity. It is therefore also critically important to the organization's goals and objectives – and to the public as well, to

the extent of the organization's reach -- that CPR Initiative has its facts straight on matters of critical importance.

Thus, here, CPR Initiative has mounted a public petition effort calling on Congress to take a stand in opposition to the Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal from the Framework Convention. Remain-In: A Petition to Halt Trump's Unilateral Withdrawal from the World Climate Treaty, <https://cprclimate.org/2026-petition-to-the-united-states-senate/>.

If, in fact, it turns out, on inspection of the actual records transmitting the United States position on withdrawal, that the Secretary General erred in his interpretation; or else, if the Department, upon reconsideration, then realized that it was not authorized to formally withdraw from the Framework Convention, then, as a matter of fundamental public interest, CPR Initiative will wish to explain these facts and their developments to its readership and the public.

Doing so will illuminate inner governmental workings with regard to formation of the US position *vis a vis* international climate policy, including with respect to its negotiation between or among the White House, the State Department, and the United Nations. Moreover, depending on the facts, CPR Initiative, cognizant of the demands of intellectual integrity, might need then either to revise its present advocacy, on the one hand, or else redouble its advocacy efforts, on the other, in opposition to such U.S. withdrawal.

## **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative respectfully requests that the Dept. of State promptly provide access to the requested information and waive any fees associated with its response. Time is of the essence regarding this request, and we thank you in advance for your consideration. Although we expect full compliance with FOIA's statutory deadlines, if you do not think you can satisfy these legal requirements, we ask that you provide an estimated completion date as mandated by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(7)(B).

Finally, to the extent that that a narrowing of the scope of our request will aide your initial search, we are open to that discussion.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can help you in your efforts to publicly disclose the information sought herein. We stand ready to answer any question you may have.

Cordially,

/s/ Daniel Galpern  
Law Offices of Daniel M. Galpern  
2495 Hilyard St., Suite A  
Eugene, Oregon 97405  
541.968.7164 (cell)  
[dan.galpern@gmail.com](mailto:dan.galpern@gmail.com)

---

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017

Reference: C.N.102.2026.TREATIES-XXVII.7 (Depositary Notification)

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
NEW YORK, 9 MAY 1992

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: WITHDRAWAL<sup>1</sup>

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 27 February 2026.

The action shall take effect for the United States of America on 27 February 2027 in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 25 of the Convention, which read as follows:

“1. At any time after three years from the date on which the Convention has entered into force for a Party, that Party may withdraw from the Convention by giving written notification to the Depositary.

2. Any such withdrawal shall take effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt by the Depositary of the notification of withdrawal, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification of withdrawal.”

27 February 2026



---

<sup>1</sup> Refer to depositary notification C.N.315.1992.TREATIES-5 of 9 November 1992 (Ratification: United States of America).

## PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Withdrawing the United States from International Organizations, Conventions,  
and Treaties that Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States

Presidential Memoranda

January 7, 2026



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



[NEWS](#) [GALLERY](#) [LIVESTREAM](#) [INVESTMENTS](#) [SAVE AMERICA](#) [WH WIRE](#) [CONTACT](#) [NEWS](#)

America, I hereby direct.

Section 1. Purpose. (a) On February 4, 2025, I issued Executive Order 14199 (Withdrawing the United States from and Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to All International Organizations). That Executive Order directed the Secretary of State, in consultation with the United States Representative to the United Nations, to conduct a review of all international intergovernmental organizations of which the United States is a member and provides any type of funding or other support, and all conventions and treaties to which the United States is a party, to determine which organizations, conventions, and treaties are contrary to the interests of the United States. The Secretary of State has reported his findings as required by Executive Order 14199.

(b) I have considered the Secretary of State's report and, after deliberating with my Cabinet, have determined that it is contrary to the interests of the United States to remain a member of, participate in, or otherwise provide support to the organizations listed in section 2 of this memorandum.

(c) Consistent with Executive Order 14199 and pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct all executive departments and agencies (agencies) to take immediate steps to effectuate the withdrawal of the United States from the organizations listed in section 2 of this memorandum as soon as possible.

For United Nations entities, withdrawal means ceasing participation in or funding to those entities to the extent permitted by law.

(d) My review of further findings of the Secretary of State remains ongoing.

Sec. 2. Organizations from Which the United States Shall Withdraw. (a) Non-United Nations Organizations:

- (i) 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy Compact;
- (ii) Colombo Plan Council;
- (iii) Commission for Environmental Cooperation;
- (iv) Education Cannot Wait;
- (v) European Centre of Excellence for Countering

Hybrid Threats;

- (vi) Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories;
- (vii) Freedom Online Coalition;
- (viii) Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund;
- (ix) Global Counterterrorism Forum;
- (x) Global Forum on Cyber Expertise;
- (xi) Global Forum on Migration and Development;
- (xii) Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research;
- (xiii) Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development;
- (xiv) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- (xv) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
- (xvi) International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property;
- (xvii) International Cotton Advisory Committee;
- (xviii) International Development Law Organization;
- (xix) International Energy Forum;
- (xx) International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies;
- (xxi) International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance;
- (xxii) International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law;
- (xxiii) International Lead and Zinc Study Group;
- (xxiv) International Renewable Energy Agency;
- (xxv) International Solar Alliance;
- (xxvi) International Tropical Timber Organization;
- (xxvii) International Union for Conservation of Nature;
- (xxviii) Pan American Institute of Geography and History;
- (xxix) Partnership for Atlantic Cooperation;
- (xxx) Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combatting Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia;
- (xxxi) Regional Cooperation Council;

- (xxxii) Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century;
- (xxxiii) Science and Technology Center in Ukraine;
- (xxxiv) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme; and
- (xxxv) Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

(b) United Nations (UN) Organizations:

- (i) Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- (ii) UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – Economic Commission for Africa;
- (iii) ECOSOC – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (iv) ECOSOC – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
- (v) ECOSOC – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;
- (vi) International Law Commission;
- (vii) International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals;
- (viii) International Trade Centre;
- (ix) Office of the Special Adviser on Africa;
- (x) Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict;
- (xi) Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict;
- (xii) Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children;
- (xiii) Peacebuilding Commission;
- (xiv) Peacebuilding Fund;
- (xv) Permanent Forum on People of African Descent;
- (xvi) UN Alliance of Civilizations;
- (xvii) UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries;
- (xviii) UN Conference on Trade and Development;
- (xix) UN Democracy Fund;
- (xx) UN Energy;
- (xxi) UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
- (xxii) UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (xxiii) UN Human Settlements Programme;
- (xxiv) UN Institute for Training and Research;
- (xxv) UN Oceans;
- (xxvi) UN Population Fund;
- (xxvii) UN Register of Conventional Arms;
- (xxviii) UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
- (xxix) UN System Staff College;
- (xxx) UN Water; and
- (xxx) UN University.

Sec. 3. Implementation Guidance. The Secretary of State shall provide additional guidance as needed to agencies when implementing this memorandum.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

DONALD J. TRUMP

## Related

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Withdraws the United States from International Organizations that Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States

Fact Sheets | January 7, 2026

Withdrawing the United States from and Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Organizations and Reviewing United States Support to All International Organizations

Presidential Actions | February 4, 2025

Withdrawing The United States From The World Health Organization

Presidential Actions | January 20, 2025

Putting America First In International Environmental Agreements

Presidential Actions | January 20, 2025

Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence

Presidential Actions, Presidential Memoranda | September 25, 2025