

U.S. Department of State (DOS)

Country and Department Background:

The State Department leads the United States in its relationships with foreign governments, international organizations, and the people of other countries. It aims to promote the security, prosperity and interests of the American people around the world. It does so by creating American jobs through support for open markets for U.S. companies; by issuing passports and providing emergency assistance to U.S. citizens abroad; by negotiating treaties to reduce nuclear weapons and equipping countries to respond to their own security challenges; by helping countries with health, food and humanitarian crises; by promoting stability, peace and human rights; and by increasing understanding of American society and values.



Promoting freedom, democracy, and human rights around the world are central to U.S. foreign policy. The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor leads the U.S. efforts to promote democracy, protect human rights and international religious freedom, and advance labor rights globally.

The U.S. is party to a number of trade treaties, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, among others. It is also party to the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations. The U.S. has free trade agreements with 20 countries, such as the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement.

The U.S. recognizes that the protection of **intellectual property rights** and safe, ethical labor practices promotes national and international prosperity and security.

- Counterfeit trade poses a U.S. national security threat because of its links to international crime networks and terrorist groups.
- Labor exploitation violates human rights.
- **Intellectual property rights** violations undermine U.S. economic and trade relations in the international arena.

With the aid of the Departments of Labor and Commerce, countless **NGOs**, and a public interested in protecting worker safety and **intellectual property**, the U.S. is partnering with the international community to find long term solutions for these security and labor concerns.

Several U.S. companies invest in Grenesia and Ekara. DOS is concerned that the crime syndicates that are operating in those countries are trafficking drugs into the United States. Any kind of transnational crime presents a security issue for the U.S. and their international partners.

Opening Position:

- You can rely on the vibrant civil society in the U.S. to support efforts to find a resolution for security risks and labor concerns.
- You want **TRIPS** to play a stronger role in the discussions.
- You sympathize with the position of Beyaria and generally support its efforts.
- You want to build a relationship with Grenesia to help ensure stability in the region.
- You support the work of **SALE** and want to encourage their involvement in the region.

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Questions to Consider:

- Why is protecting **intellectual property** and labor rights important to the U.S. government?
- What are U.S. priorities in dealing with issues of child exploitation? Trade?
- What regulations does the U.S. have in place regarding safe, legal trade and labor practices?
- What implications do the decisions made by DOS have in the future?
- What advantage does the U.S. receive if **TRIPS** plays a stronger role in discussions of the illegal counterfeit trade?
- What programs might DOS support to help decrease the demand for counterfeit goods while increasing enforcement of current labor protections and anti-counterfeit efforts?

