

**Kristina Hickey**

---

**Subject:** FW: s 33(a)(iii)

[Redacted]

**From:** Celeste Powell <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 5, 2025 3:36 PM  
**To:** Gartrell, Tim <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; zz [External] s 22(1)(a)(ii);  
Kennedy, Steven <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; Anna Oldmeadow <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; Jan Adams  
<s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; Peter Sawczak s 22(1)(a)(ii); zz [External]  
s 22(1)(a)(ii); zz  
[External] s 22(1)(a)(ii) Lawson, Elly <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>;  
s 22(1)(a)(ii); Morony, Kendra <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; Kristina Hickey  
<s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Jason Robertson <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; zz [External] s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii); Greentree, Phoebe MS s 22(1)(a)(ii); Kevin Rudd  
s 22(1)(a)(ii); Dougal McInnes s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
<s 22(1)(a)(ii)>; Young, Eric <s 22(1)(a)(ii)>  
**Subject:** s 33(a)(iii)

[Redacted]

Dear Colleagues

Sending the below on behalf of Ambassador Rudd.

>>>

Dear All

s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(ii), s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)



s 33(a)(i), s 33(a)(ii), s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii)

>>>

Best

**Celeste Powell**

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Minister-Counsellor Political  
Embassy of Australia

Washington DC  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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## KEY ISSUE BRIEF – PAX SILICA SUMMIT – 12 DECEMBER, WASHINGTON

- Australian senior officials will attend the **‘Pax Silica’ Summit on technology supply chains** convened by Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Helberg, with NSC participation.
  - **UK, ROK, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands, Israel, and UAE** were also invited and are attending.

s 33(a)(iii)



### **Pacific narrative:**

s 33(a)(iii)

- As well as me, I have a Minister for Pacific Island affairs and three others assisting in the portfolio, with the Prime Minister also closely engaged

s 33(a)(iii)

### **Detailed actions:**

In the Pacific, Australia:

- **is leading with unprecedented investments**
  - is the largest foreign assistance provider [*USD 1.4 billion, larger than China, Japan, NZ, France and EU combined*],
  - is the largest infrastructure financier [*USD2.6 billion AIFFP, plus MDBs*]

- AUD4 billion portfolio through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility in the Pacific – 57 projects in 11 countries:
  - eg. PNG Ports Infrastructure Investment Program – Kimbe Port, Kavieng Port, Lae Tidal Basin, Oro Bay and Daru Port [AUD\$521m (loan) AUD\$100m],
  - eg. Palau ECHO Submarine Cable – (co-financed with USAID, JBIC and DoI) [AU contribution AUD\$12.6m (loan) AUD\$2.1m (grant)],
  - eg. Fiji Airports – Maintenance and Upgrades [AUD\$68.4m],
  - eg. PNG Energy Program – Ramu 1, Gerehu Substation and Smart Meters [Total AUD\$171.4m (loan) AUD\$42.9m (grant)],
  - eg. Connect Papua New Guinea – Roads Repair (in parallel with ADB) [AU contribution AUD\$61.6m (loan) AUD\$20.8m (grant)],
- the largest security assistance provider [22 patrol boats, over AUD 700 million in law enforcement investments over 4 years], including:
  - Pacific Maritime Security Program s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Pacific Policing Initiative s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Pacific Cyber Resilience s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Australian Border Force Pacific presence s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Pacific Fusion Centre s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b) \$3.7m ongoing from FY22/23],
  - Pacific Security College [\$36m FY19/20-FY26/27],
  - Pacific Response Group (Defence funded),
  - Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program – All Pacific Island Countries, with Kiribati warehousing open s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Pacific Policing Partnerships Program – Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Australia Pacific Defence School – Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia,

- Cook Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
- Defence Cooperation Program s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
- s 33(a)(iii)
- PNG Bilateral Security Agreement s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - Falepili Union treaty with Tuvalu s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
  - treaty with Nauru s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
- s 33(a)(iii)
- and we have struck other deals: PNG on a rugby league franchise [*over \$600m out to 2034, including \$250m for the Pacific Rugby League Partnership*], s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
- **is bolstering people-to-people links** s 33(a)(iii)
    - 31,000 Pacific workers employed in Australia through Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme [*over AUD440 million invested*],
    - up to 3,000 Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV) recipients per year s 33(a)(iii) & s 33(b)
    - Churches Partnership Program [*AUD3.3m*],
    - PacificAus Sports [*AUD15.6m per annum*],
    - Team Up program [*AUD6m per annum*].

## Southeast Asia narrative:

s 33(a)(iii)

### Detailed actions

Australia taking the following actions In Southeast Asia:

- **is deepening productive ties with key regional countries and leaders**
  - including by signing a bilateral Treaty on Common Security with Indonesia [12 Nov], that commits us to consult each other on a regular basis on common security and should there be any challenges to common security,
  - has elevated our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Singapore [8 Oct],
  
- **is growing our bilateral defence relationships and presence**
  - has invested in s 33(a)(iii) and conducted Maritime Cooperation Activities with the Philippines (and the US and Japan),

s 33(a)(iii)

- has bolstered defence ties with Indonesia by signing a bilateral Treaty on Common Security [12 Nov] and Defence Cooperation Agreement [29 Aug 2024],
- has expanded maritime cooperation into new areas, including investing USD41 million in maritime domain awareness and broader civil maritime cooperation

s 33(a)(iii)

- **is building cyber capabilities**

- Australia is investing A\$83.5 million over four years (2024-28) in the Southeast Asia and Pacific Cyber Program (SEA-PAC Cyber) to build cyber capacity and resilience in the Indo-Pacific.

s 33(a)(iii)

- has established our AUS2 billion investment financing facility
- is implementing our Southeast Asia economic strategy, *Invested*, and deployed Deal Teams to the region;
- including for the Southeast Asia Infrastructure Financing Facility (AUD250 million) and the Asia-Pacific Debt Fund (AUD175 million),
- have supported Monash University's \$1 billion investment to build a new campus in Kuala Lumpur,

- **is increasing our development assistance to AUD1.3 billion**

s 33(a)(iii)

- the *Southeast Asia Government-to-Government Partnership* (\$50m),
- new phases of the *Mekong-Australia Partnership* (\$222.5m) and *Investing in Women* (\$80m),
- finalising a second phase of the *Partnerships for Infrastructure* (\$195m),
- providing approximately 2,600 long and short term scholarships,
- providing health services to almost 5 million Cambodians, and
- provided almost one million people in Myanmar with humanitarian assistance



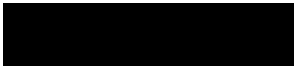


Indo-Pacific

s 33(a)(iii)

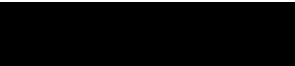
We need a balance of power where no country dominates, to avoid one adversary dominating the region.

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s 33(a)(iii)



s 33(a)(iii)





s 33(a)(iii)





s 33(a)(iii)





**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# BRIEF FOR THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

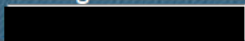


## AUSMIN 2025

Washington D.C., 8 December 2025



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# AUSMIN PROGRAM

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

Local Time		Canberra Time
1200	Depart Adelaide on QF682	1230
1345	Arrive Melbourne	1345
1605	Depart Melbourne on QF21	1605
1450	Arrive Dallas Fort Worth	0750+1
1714	Depart Dallas Fort Worth on AA472	1014+1
2100	<a href="#">Cable and document delivery</a>	1300+1
2100	Arrive Washington DC	1300+1
	<i>Venue: Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA)</i>	
	<i>Met by:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mr Jason Robertson, Deputy Head of Mission</li><li>- s 22(1)(a)(ii), Visits Manager</li></ul>	
2120	Depart for Dupont Circle Hotel	1320+1
	<i>1500 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington DC</i>	
2145	Arrive at Dupont Circle Hotel	1345+1
	<i>Met by:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hotel Manager</li><li>- s 22(1)(a)(ii), First Secretary, Post Visit Coordinator</li></ul>	
	<i>End of official engagements</i>	

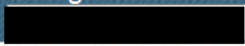
## MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

Local Time		Canberra Time
0650	<i>Transfer to Embassy of Australia</i>	2250
0700	<i>Cable and document delivery</i>	2300
0700 - 0815	<b>Pre-AUSMIN breakfast briefing</b> <i>Venue: Julie Bishop Room, Embassy of Australia</i>	2300 – 0015+1
0815 – 0830	<b>Opportunity to refresh</b>	0015 – 0030+1
0830	<i>Transfer to Department of State</i> <i>2201 C Street NW, Washington DC</i>	0030+1
0845	<b>Arrive Department of State</b> <i>Please carry passport</i> <i>(Note: FM greeted curb side and escorted to 7<sup>th</sup> floor)</i>	0045+1
0900 – 0930	<b>Bilateral one on one meeting with Secretary of State, Marco Rubio</b> <i>Venue: 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of State</i>	0100 – 0130+1
0930 – 0945	<b>Opportunity to refresh</b>	0130 – 0145+1
0945 – 1015	<b>Family photo, opening statements</b> <i>Venue: 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of State</i> <i>(Note: No Q&amp;A, per Department of State advice)</i>	0145 – 0215+1
1030 – 1115	<b>AUSMIN – Session I: s 33(a)</b> <i>Venue: 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of State</i> <u><i>US attendees:</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secretary of State, Marco Rubio</li> <li>- Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth</li> <li>- TBC</li> </ul> <u><i>Australian attendees:</i></u> <p><i>Foreign Affairs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister for Foreign Affairs</li> <li>- Secretary DFAT</li> <li>- Ambassador Rudd</li> <li>- Deputy Chief of Staff, Kristina Hickey</li> </ul> <p><i>Defence:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deputy Prime Minister</li> <li>- Chief of Defence Force</li> <li>- Deputy Chief of Staff, Lucien Wells</li> </ul> <p><i>Backbench:</i></p>	0230 – 0315+1



- Director-General National Intelligence
- Notetaker (TBC)

1115 – 1130	Coffee break	0315 – 0330+1
	<i>Venue: 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of State</i>	
1130 – 1215	AUSMIN – Session II: s 33(a)(iii)	0330 – 0415+1
	<i>Venue: 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of State</i>	
1215 – 1300	AUSMIN – Session III: s 33(a)(iii)	0415 – 0500+1
	<i>Venue: 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Department of State</i>	
1300	<i>Transfer to Embassy of Australia</i>	0500+1
1315 – 1400	Debrief lunch	0515 – 0600+1
	<i>Venue: Julie Bishop Room, Embassy of Australia</i>	
1400 – 1430	Opportunity for media preparation	0600 – 0630+1
	<i>Venue: Peter Norman Room, Embassy of Australia</i>	
1430 – 1500	Joint media doorstep with Deputy Prime Minister	0630 – 0700+1
	<i>Venue: Julia Gillard Auditorium, Embassy of Australia</i>	
1500	<i>Transfer to Dupont Circle Hotel</i>	0700+1
1500 – 1800	Australia-based business	0700 – 1000+1
1700	Cable and document delivery	0900+1
1800 – 1845	<i>Transfer to Dulles International Airport</i>	1000 – 1045+1
2005	Depart Washington DC on QR0708	1205+1



TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER

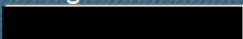
Local Time		Canberra Time
1645	Arrive Doha, Qatar	2345
2020	Depart Doha, Qatar on QR0914	0320 +1

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

Local Time		Canberra Time
1705	Arrive Adelaide	1735



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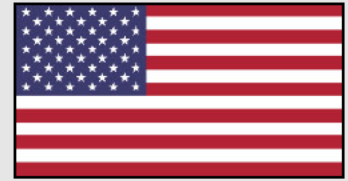




**Marco RUBIO**

Secretary of State and Acting National Security Advisor

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



**Form of Address** Mr Secretary; Secretary Rubio  
**Education** Bachelor of Arts, University of Florida  
Juris Doctor (cum laude), University of Miami,  
School of Law  
**X handle** [@SecRubio](#)

**Career summary**

- 2025- US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor
- 2011-2025 US Senator (R-Florida)
- 2000-2008 Member of the Florida House of Representatives
- 1998-2000 Member of the West Miami City Commission

**Comment**

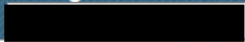
In addition to his role as Secretary of State, Rubio has served as National Security Advisor since May 2025, USAID Administrator from February until August, and Archivist and Head of the National Archives and Records Administration since February. Rubio is focused on delivering the Trump Administration’s America First foreign policy agenda – including under his mantra, making America ‘safer, stronger and more prosperous.’

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# AUSMIN AGENDA (DRAFT)

[Agenda was not finalised at time of printing. The agenda below represents Australia's proposal.]

## Monday 8 December

Timing	Event
09:45 – 10:15	Family Photo, Opening Statements
10:30 – 11:15	Session I: s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)
11:30 – 12:15	Session II: s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)
12:15 – 13:00	Session III: s 33(a)(iii) s 33(a)(iii)











































































































































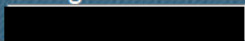








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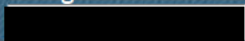






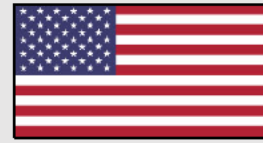


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# BIOGRAPHY – PETE HEGSETH

Pete HEGSETH  
Secretary of War  
United States of America



**Form of Address:** Mr Secretary; Secretary Hegseth  
**Year of Birth:** 1980  
**Education** Bachelor of Arts, Princeton University (2003)  
Master Public Policy, Harvard University (2013)

## Career

2025- Secretary of War  
2017-2024 Cohost of *Fox & Friends Weekend*  
2014-2017 Fox News contributor  
2002-2021 Army National Guard Officer

## Biography

s 33(a)(iii)

Hegseth was commissioned as an infantry officer in the United States Army National Guard, after graduating from Princeton University, eventually attaining the rank of Major. He participated in a number of active-duty deployments during his time in the service, including operations in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq and Afghanistan. Hegseth’s military awards include two Bronze Star Medals as well as other commendations.

Following his military service Hegseth became the executive director of Vets for Freedom and Concerned Veterans for America. From 2014 to 2025, he was a political commentator for Fox News and was a weekend co-host of Fox and Friends from 2017 to 2024.

He is author of four books, including the most recently published *The War on Warriors: Behind the Betrayal of the Men Who Keep us Free* (2024). Hegseth is married to Jennifer Rauchet, a television producer, and has seven children.











































# WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET – AUSTRALIAN PM VISIT

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Closes Billion-Dollar Deals with Australia

The White House

October 20, 2025

**ACHIEVING CRITICAL MINERAL AND ENERGY DOMINANCE:** Today, President Donald J. Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese signed a landmark Critical Minerals Framework to unleash the potential of our abundant natural resources—a model for supply-chain cooperation globally.

- The U.S. and Australian governments intend to invest more than \$3 billion together in critical mineral projects in the next six months, with recoverable resources in the projects estimated to be worth \$53 billion.
  - The Export-Import Bank of the United States is issuing seven Letters of Interest for more than \$2.2 billion in financing, unlocking up to \$5 billion of total investment, to advance critical minerals and supply-chain security projects between our two countries.

The U.S. Department of War will invest in the construction of a 100 metric ton-per-year advanced gallium refinery in Western Australia, further advancing self-reliance in critical minerals processing.

**DEEPENING DEFENSE COOPERATION:** Australia committed to enhanced burden sharing and is making new defense investments that will bolster the U.S.- Australia alliance.

- Australia agreed to purchase \$1.2 billion in Anduril unmanned underwater vehicles and take delivery of the first tranche of Apache helicopters in a separate \$2.6 billion deal.
- Since February, Australia has contributed \$1 billion to the U.S. Government to expand and modernize the U.S. submarine industrial base, with another \$1 billion by the end of the year. Together, we are strengthening the Australia – United Kingdom – United States (AUKUS) trilateral security partnership to meet the challenges of tomorrow.
- Australia is investing significantly in its integrated air and missile defense capabilities, including \$2 billion in U.S. companies, for its Joint Air Battle Management System.
- The U.S.-Australia alliance is securing munitions supply-chain resilience under Australia’s Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) enterprise, and building on streamlined export cooperation, which will directly support more than 200 manufacturing suppliers in Texas, Florida, Arkansas, and Alabama.

**PROMOTING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION:** The United States and Australia are forging a historic partnership to drive innovation, economic growth, and technological leadership through strategic investments and collaborative initiatives.

- Australia’s superannuation funds will increase investments in the United States to \$1.44 trillion by 2035—an increase of almost \$1 trillion from current levels.
  - This unprecedented investment will create tens of thousands of new, high-paying jobs for Americans.
- The United States recently secured expanded access for U.S. beef in Australia and is committed to opening new markets for U.S. ranchers.
- NASA and the Australian Space Agency signed a framework agreement to strengthen civil space and aeronautics cooperation. NASA’s Artemis program, which will return astronauts to the Moon, will be joined by a technology development lunar rover from Australia.
- The United States and Australia agreed to develop and launch a bilateral Technology Prosperity Deal to establish joint initiatives to cooperate and invest in AI, quantum, and other critical technologies.

# US-AUSTRALIA CRITICAL MINERALS AND RARE EARTHS FRAMEWORK

## United States-Australia Framework For Securing of Supply in the Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths 20 October, 2025

Whereas, rare earths and critical minerals are essential for the production of advanced technologies;

Whereas, the United States of America (the “United States” or “U.S.”) and the Commonwealth of Australia (“Australia”, and together, the “Participants”) intend to support the supply of raw and processed critical minerals and rare earths crucial to the commercial and defence industries of the United States and Australia;

Whereas, the Participants plan to accomplish this through use of economic policy tools and coordinated investment to accelerate development of diversified, liquid, fair markets for critical minerals and rare earths;

Whereas, the Participants’ objective is to assist both countries in achieving resilience and security of critical minerals and rare earths supply chains, including mining, separation, and processing; Whereas, the Participants intend to capitalize on their respective existing domestic mining and processing operations in critical minerals and heavy and light rare earths as well as new capacity to be made available in 2026.

Therefore, the Participants have reached the following understanding on a common policy framework for the mining and processing of critical minerals and rare earths.

### Section I Critical Minerals and Rare Earths

**1. Securing supply:** The Participants are intensifying their cooperative efforts to accelerate the secure supply of critical minerals and rare earths necessary to support manufacturing of defence and advanced technologies and their respective industrial bases, including by leveraging existing policy tools such as the United States’ industrial demand and stockpiling infrastructure and Australia’s Critical Mineral Strategic Reserve.


**2. Investment in mining and processing:** The Participants will mobilise government and private sector support including for capital and operational expenditures via guarantees, loans, or equity; finalization of offtake arrangements; insurance; or regulatory facilitation.

**a. Project selection:** The Participants will jointly identify projects of interest to address gaps in priority supply chains.

**b. Financing:** In addition to the steps above, within six months of the date of this Framework, the Participants are taking measures to provide at least \$1 billion in financing to projects located in each of the United States and Australia expected to generate end product for delivery to buyers in the United States and Australia.

**c. Investment support:** The Participants will work together to develop new or bespoke mechanisms to strengthen critical minerals and rare earths supply chains.

**d. Ministerial:** The Participants have decided to promote investment in mining by convening a Mining, Minerals and Metals Investment Ministerial within 180 days of the date of this Framework.



3. **Permitting:** The Participants are taking measures to accelerate, streamline, or deregulate permitting timelines and processes, including to obtain permits for critical minerals and rare earths mining, separation, and processing within their respective domestic regulatory systems, consistent with applicable law.

4. **Price Mechanisms:** The Participants will work to protect their respective domestic critical minerals and rare earths markets from non-market policies and unfair trade practices, including through the adoption of standards based systems in which those who adopt the standards can trade freely and within a pricing framework including price floors or similar measures. The Participants will also work with international partners to develop a future global framework to deal with associated international pricing challenges.

5. **Asset Sales:** The Participants commit to work in good faith to develop new or strengthen existing authorities and diplomatic tools that review and deter critical minerals and rare earths asset sales on national security grounds.

6. **Scrap:** The Participants commit to investing in minerals recycling technology and to work together to ensure management of critical minerals and rare earth scrap that supports supply chain diversification.

7. **Third parties:** The Participants will work together with third parties as appropriate to ensure supply chain security and utilise existing engagement mechanisms.

8. **Geological mapping:** The Participants will cooperate to assist in mapping mineral resources in Australia, the United States, and elsewhere as mutually determined, to support diversified critical mineral supply chains.

9. **Rapid Response:** The Participants are establishing a **U.S.-Australia Critical Minerals Supply Security Response Group** under the leadership of the U.S. Secretary of Energy and the Australian Minister for Resources to identify priority minerals and supply vulnerabilities and develop a coordinated plan to accelerate delivery of processed minerals under this Framework.

## Section II General Provisions

1. The appropriate authorities of the Participants will carry out post-project analysis and implementation. The specific content of the post-project analysis is to be developed between/among the Participants, in accordance with their respective domestic laws.

2. The Participants will meet, virtually or in-person, at the written request of the other Participant within 10 days of the receipt of the request.

3. Either Participant may discontinue its participation in this Framework by giving written notification to the other Participant. Absent notice to the contrary from the discontinuing Participant, any such discontinuation would be effective on the thirtieth day after the date of receipt of the written notification by the other Participant.

4. The Framework sets out a policy and programmatic action plan that does not constitute or create rights or obligations under domestic or international law, does not give rise to any legal process, and does not constitute or create any legally binding or enforceable obligations, express or implied.