

Michael Froman

President, Council on Foreign Relations; Former United States Trade Representative

Ambassador Michael Froman is the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, dedicated to elevating Americans' participation in matters related to trade and foreign policy decisions. He formerly served as the 17th United States Trade Representative, sworn in under President Obama in 2013. In this capacity, he served in the Cabinet as President Obama's principal advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson on international trade and investment issues. He also led the Office of the United States Trade Representative in its work to open global markets for U.S. goods and services, enforcing America's rights in the global trading system and fostering development through trade.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Ambassador Froman discusses America's role in the global trading system and global economy and the linkages between U.S. economic and strategic interests. He evaluates the importance of raising labor and environmental standards, establishing disciplines on currency and state-owned enterprise policies, and defining rules for the digital economy, data flows and the maintenance of an open and free Internet. He is well positioned to discuss the evolution of international economic policy coming out of Washington and its effect on business interests domestically and around the world.

Key initiatives undertaken at the Office of the United States Trade Representative under Ambassador Froman's leadership included negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement in the Asia Pacific, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union, negotiation of agreements on services, information technology and trade facilitation at the World Trade Organization, and monitoring and enforcing U.S. trade rights, including through the Interagency Trade and Enforcement Center (ITEC). He expertly addresses how policies affect not only American interests but also the economic futures of Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and China and Japan, in particular.

Before his appointment as Trade Representative, Ambassador Froman served in the White House as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs, where he was responsible for coordinating policy on international trade and finance, energy security and climate change, and development and democracy issues. He served as the U.S. Sherpa for the G20 and G8 Summits, and staffed the President for the APEC Leaders Meetings. He chaired or co-chaired the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, the Transatlantic Economic Council, the U.S.-India CEO Forum and the U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum. He formerly held a number of high-level roles at Citigroup and is a Distinguished Fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations.

From 2001 until 2009, Ambassador Froman managed various businesses at Citigroup, as CEO of its international insurance business, COO of Alternative Investments and head of its infrastructure investment fund. He spent seven years in the U.S. Government under President Clinton serving as Chief of Staff and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Eurasia and the Middle East at the U.S. Department of Treasury. He was also Director for International Economic Affairs at the National Security Council and National Economic Council. In 2018, he was hired by MasterCard as vice chairman and president of strategic growth, focusing on developing solutions for governments and other enterprises, launching new businesses, and driving financial inclusion and inclusive growth efforts.

Ambassador Froman received a bachelor's degree in Public and International Affairs from Princeton University, a doctorate in International Relations from Oxford University and law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.