



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

21-111

April 26, 2021

**CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL**

Consistent with sections 7015 and 7062(a) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021 (Div. K, P.L. 116-260) and section 34 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, the Department of State is notifying you of its intent to establish a new Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate within the Office of the Secretary and to reprogram \$2.5 million within the Diplomatic Programs account from the Bureau of Budget and Planning to the Office of the Secretary.

The planned office resources and related reprogramming of funds are summarized in the enclosure.

Obligations may be incurred in fifteen calendar days from the above date of notification.

**Recipients:**

House Foreign Affairs Committee

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

House Appropriations Committee

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Senate Appropriations Committee

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naz Durakoglu".

Naz Durakoglu  
Acting Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

## **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

The Department is notifying its intent to establish the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (S/SPEC) within the Office of the Secretary (S) and to reprogram \$2.5 million in FY 2021 Diplomatic Programs funds from the Bureau of Budget and Planning to S in connection with SPEC's establishment. Total FY 2021 funding for S/SPEC would be \$6.8 million, inclusive of the \$2.5 million from the planned reprogramming, \$2.5 million currently allocated to S, and \$1.8 million from the central American Salaries allocation. FY 2021 funding is resource-neutral for the Department. We anticipate that the annualized cost for the office, including personnel, office space, and other expenses would be \$13.9 million. Among the many pressing international priorities on President Biden's agenda, reasserting U.S. leadership in combating the global climate crisis is among the most critical – having been identified by the President as one of the four “historic” crises confronting the United States. On January 27, 2021, President Biden issued E.O. 14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The order commits to “putting the climate crisis at the center of foreign policy and national security.” The Order indicates that the President “created a new Presidential appointment position, the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate to elevate the issue of climate change and underscore the commitment my Administration will make towards addressing it.”

The proposed Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate will support the envoy in leading diplomatic engagement on climate change, exercising climate leadership in international fora, increasing international climate ambition, and ensuring that climate change is integrated into all elements of the Administration's foreign policy-making processes. The SPEC office would be closely integrated with the State Department's existing climate diplomacy structures.

The S/SPEC office would be comprised of 45 personnel to reach optimum operating capacity. The current proposed staffing would include 36 direct hire employees, as well as three details from other U.S. government agencies, three subject matter experts brought in as fellows or Intergovernmental Personnel Act arrangements, and three contractors. These personnel will focus on seven key areas: international negotiations; implementation and ambition; private finance and multinational corporate strategy; public finance; global innovation and competitiveness; coordination with the national climate advisor; and public affairs/external engagement. The proposed organizational chart for the SPEC office is included

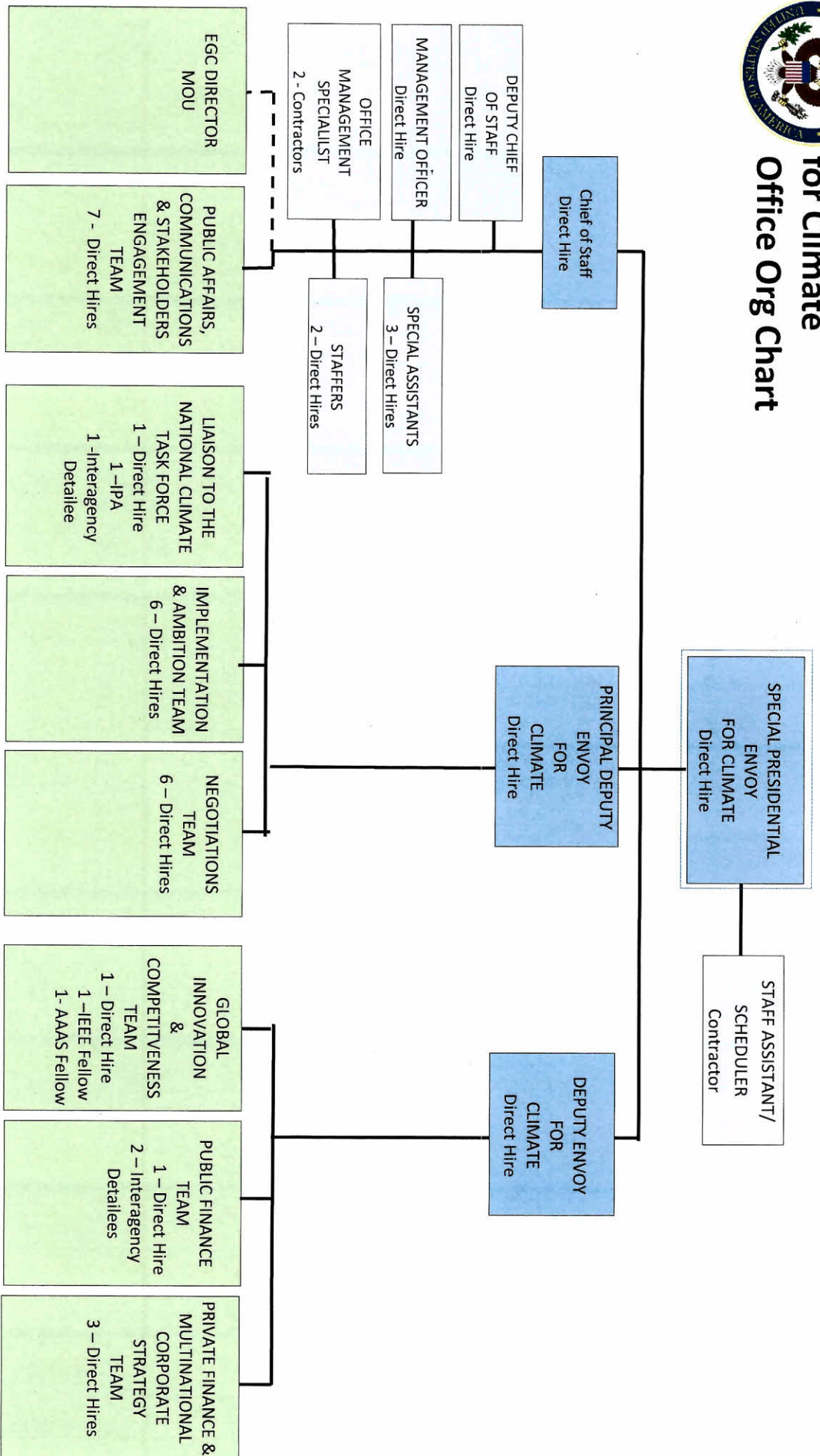
Prior to 2009, the lead role for climate change in the Department was the senior climate negotiator in the Bureau of Ocean and International Environment and Scientific Affairs (OES) front office. The Obama administration created an Office for the Special Envoy for Climate Change, which was discontinued in September 2019. The Office of Global Change, within the OES Bureau (OES/EGC) has been the Department's long-running permanent program office for climate issues. In order to maximize the Department's existing resources, the director of OES/EGC will ensure full support and coordination for climate-related issues between that office and SPEC. In the Obama administration, the special envoy for climate change provided guidance to OES/EGC; OES/EGC then reported via "dotted line" to the special envoy. The proposed OES/EGC reporting relationship to SPEC is being structured in an identical way, as reflected in the SPEC organizational chart. This arrangement will help take advantage of the existing knowledge base of OES/EGC staff and more seamlessly integrate S/SPEC into the Department's broader climate diplomacy agenda.

By leveraging existing expertise and diplomatic resources at the State Department, including across regional and functional bureaus, the SPEC office will be able to most efficiently and nimbly fulfill the Administration's robust international climate agenda. As the SPEC office will build upon existing resources and be fully integrated within the existing departmental structure, it will maximize coordination on climate across our foreign policy decision-making processes.

The proposed SPEC office would enhance the Department's ability to advance the national interests of the United States by supporting the envoy in the manner described above. The office would not be responsible for the monitoring and oversight of foreign assistance programs. No legislation would be required to implement the proposed realignment. The Department plans to implement the realignment as soon as possible upon completion of congressional notification procedures.



# Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Office Org Chart



**POSITION TYPES**  
 DIRECT HIRES – 36 POSITIONS  
 DETAILLEES – 3 POSITIONS  
 FELLOWS – 2 POSITIONS  
 IPA ASSIGNMENT - 1 POSITION  
 CONTRACTORS – 3 POSITIONS  
 TOTAL 45 POSITIONS