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December 20, 2025

**VIA FOIA.GOV**

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of State  
Office of Information Programs and Services  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear FOIA Officer:

On behalf of Public Citizen, and pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of:

- The U.S.-Kenya health framework of cooperation,<sup>1</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans;
- The U.S.-Rwanda bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>2</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans;
- The U.S.-Liberia bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>3</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans.

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Secretary of State Marco Rubio with Kenyan President William Ruto at the Signing of a Health Framework of Cooperation (Dec. 4, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/secretary-of-state-marco-rubio-with-kenyan-president-william-ruto-at-the-signing-of-a-health-framework-of-cooperation/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Continuing to Deliver on the America First Global Health Strategy with the Signing of the United States-Rwanda Bilateral Health Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (Dec. 5, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/continuing-to-deliver-on-the-america-first-global-health-strategy-with-the-signing-of-the-united-states-rwanda-bilateral-health-cooperation-memorandum-of-understanding/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Leveraging Momentum of the America First Global Health Strategy with the Signing of the United States-Liberia Bilateral Health Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (Dec. 9, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/leveraging-momentum-of-the-america-first-global-health-strategy-with-the-signing-of-the-united-states-liberia-bilateral-health-cooperation-memorandum-of-understanding/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

- The U.S.-Uganda bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>4</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans.
- The U.S.-Lesotho bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>5</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans.
- The U.S.-Eswatini bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>6</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans.
- The U.S.-Mozambique bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>7</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans.
- The U.S.-Cameroon bilateral health cooperation memorandum of understanding,<sup>8</sup> its appendices, all related understandings and agreements (including, but not limited to, data sharing agreement, specimen agreement, and financing agreement(s)), related budget tables, and agreement implementation plans.

**This request applies to all records created from December 1, 2025, through the date of the search.**

Please provide any responsive records on a rolling basis, rather than waiting for all responsive records to be assembled and reviewed before releasing them.

If it is your position that responsive records exist but that those records (or portions of those records) are exempt from disclosure, please identify the records that are being withheld and state the basis for the

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<sup>4</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Strengthening Health Ties with Uganda and Lesotho under the America First Global Health Strategy (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/strengthening-health-ties-with-uganda-and-lesotho-under-the-america-first-global-health-strategy/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Strengthening Health Ties with Uganda and Lesotho under the America First Global Health Strategy (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/strengthening-health-ties-with-uganda-and-lesotho-under-the-america-first-global-health-strategy/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Supporting Breakthrough Health Advancements in Eswatini Under the America First Global Health Strategy (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/supporting-breakthrough-health-advancements-in-eswatini-under-the-america-first-global-health-strategy/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Empowering Resilience in Mozambique Under the America First Global Health Strategy (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/empowering-resilience-in-mozambique-under-the-america-first-global-health-strategy/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of State, Safeguarding Global Health Security in Cameroon Through the America First Global Health Strategy (Dec. 16, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/12/safeguarding-global-health-security-in-cameroon-through-the-america-first-global-health-strategy/> (last visited Dec. 20, 2025).

denial for each record being withheld. Additionally, I request that you provide an index of withheld documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973).

Please note that Public Citizen seeks each record *in its entirety*. Accordingly, please provide all nonexempt portions of the records, without redacting portions of any record as “non-responsive,” “out of scope,” or the like.

We additionally request that any records produced in response to this request be provided in electronic form wherever possible.

### ***Fee Waiver Request***

Public Citizen requests that all fees in connection with this FOIA request be waived in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) because Public Citizen does not seek the records for a commercial purpose, and disclosure “is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government.” The subject of the request concerns the operations or activities of the government because the request seeks information on agreements that the U.S. government has made with partner governments. Records sought will contribute significantly to public understanding of government activities related to these agreements and U.S. foreign assistance approaches.

Public Citizen is a nonprofit research, litigation, and advocacy organization that represents the public interest before Congress, the executive branch, and the courts. Public Citizen fights, among other things, for openness and democratic accountability in government. Public Citizen has used FOIA to advance its work, has litigated FOIA cases, and has trained others to use FOIA, for more than 50 years.<sup>9</sup>

Public Citizen does not have a commercial interest in the requested records.

Public Citizen intends to share information received from this request with the public free of charge. It regularly publishes reports based upon information acquired through FOIA. Public Citizen also has a demonstrated capacity to disseminate this information. Public Citizen has several full-time staff dedicated to distributing its publications through its website, as well as via newsletters,<sup>10</sup> X,<sup>11</sup> Facebook,<sup>12</sup> email listservs, and press releases. Many of Public Citizen's reports, petitions, or other research products grab headlines in major newspapers, broadcast media, social media, and academic journals.<sup>13</sup> Nearly every day, print and broadcast media around the world mention Public Citizen or quote its experts. Public Citizen

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<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., Public Citizen, “Protecting the public’s right to know,”

<https://www.citizen.org/topic/making-government-work/open-government/>; Public Citizen, “Freedom of Information Act,” <https://www.citizen.org/article/freedom-of-information-act-foia-resources/>

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., Public Citizen, Health Letter, <https://www.citizen.org/news/public-citizens-health-letter/>

<sup>11</sup> [https://x.com/Public\\_Citizen](https://x.com/Public_Citizen) (Public Citizen’s X page)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/publiccitizen/> (Public Citizen’s Facebook page)

<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., Martine Powers, *Report spotlights lobbying by White House chief’s former clients*, Wash. Post (May 5, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/05/05/lobbying-white-house-wiles>; Caitlin Oprysko, *Ballard’s big Q1 haul*, Politico (April 21, 2025),

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-influence/2025/04/21/ballards-big-q1-haul-00301866>; Lisa Bonos, *Trump says he’s ending the U.S. government’s ‘war on crypto’*, Wash. Post (Mar. 5, 2025),

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/03/07/trump-crypto-summit-white-house/>; Laurence Darmiento, *Consumer agency drops Zelle lawsuit against big banks in latest legal pullback*, L.A. Times (Mar. 5, 2025),

<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2025-03-05/consumer-financial-protection-bureau-zelle-lawsuit>

also makes its experts available to speak to the media, present at conferences, and testify before Congress. Public Citizen plans to disseminate the requested information and analysis of the information through its website, blog posts, press releases, and reports, as appropriate.

Accordingly, Public Citizen requests that you waive all fees for locating and duplicating the requested records because Public Citizen is entitled to a public interest fee waiver. If, however, a waiver is not granted, please advise me of the amount of any proposed search, review, and reproduction charges before you conduct those activities.

***Statutory Timeline***

The Act requires agencies to respond to requests within 20 business days after the request is received. Accordingly, we expect to be notified when the request has been received for processing, and again within 20 business days later with the release of responsive records, or information about why additional time may be necessary to fulfill the request.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me by phone at (240) 723-5188 or by email at [mwhiteman@citizen.org](mailto:mwhiteman@citizen.org).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Megan Whiteman  
On behalf of Public Citizen