



Mission Performance Plan Process

The Department of State's Mission Performance Plans (MPPs) are the basic building blocks of a process that stems from the commitment of foreign affairs agencies to improve the management of international affairs policy and resources through the application of strategic planning and performance measurement. The MPP is the single planning document within the U.S. Government that defines U.S. national interests in foreign countries and coordinates performance measurement in these countries among U.S. Government agencies. The articulation of the fundamental national interests of the United States in the MPP is not intended to limit the scope of U.S. Government agencies' activities. Indeed, some agencies, particularly those engaging in scientific research and collaboration, may have goals that are not directly encompassed by the MPP. However, the MPP creates a framework for all agencies to define priorities, to articulate the goals and objectives of their programs, and to directly relate program accomplishments to agency-specific and government-wide strategic goals.

The MPP process is designed as a truly interagency activity. At each Mission, the Plan is created by the interagency country team under the leadership of the Chief of Mission. Guidance provided to these teams stresses the importance of ensuring consistency between the MPP and each Agency's strategic plan and requested resource levels. The country team then sends the MPP to Washington for interagency review. All concerned agencies have the opportunity either to attend country/regional review meetings or to submit written comments on the MPP, depending on the type of review conducted.

Following individual MPP reviews, State Department regional bureaus prepare Performance Plans for each geographic region of the world. These plans reflect the interests and goals of the entire U.S. Government. Regional plans are also subject to interagency reviews, chaired by the Secretary of State as the President's principal foreign policy advisor.

In sum, all MPPs 1) fall under the framework of the national interests and goals defined in the international affairs strategic plan; 2) are anchored to the budget cycle and inform resource allocation decisions; 3) are subject to interagency review in Washington; and 4) contain performance information that will be the basis for reporting progress in accordance with GPRA.