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The Secretary presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and reminds them of the obligations and responsibilities outlined in Article 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR).

The Department calls the attention of all missions to the consular functions outlined in Article 5 and emphasizes the importance of the expeditious issuance of passports and travel documents to respective nationals of the sending state, and the provision of all necessary assistance to foreign nationals of the sending state, including those who may face difficulties in producing the necessary documentation in order to obtain a travel document.

The Department advises foreign missions that they may see a significant and immediate demand for passports and other travel documents as a result of the Administration's enforcement efforts pursuant to U.S. immigration law and President Trump's January 20, 2025, Executive Order

14159 “Protecting the American People Against Invasion.” Consistent with the VCCR, the Department encourages missions to work with foreign nationals seeking to depart the United States on the facilitation of passports or other necessary travel documents in order to complete their travel. To expedite the processing and issuance of these travel documents, missions may want to consider extending passport validity, waiving associated fees, and any other steps to ensure that foreign nationals seeking to return have the necessary travel documents to do so as soon as possible.

Missions should further expect additional outreach from U.S. government departments and agencies to explore alternative means of nationality verification including expedited electronic nationality verification. Missions should ensure that the entities within their government that are responsible for immigration processing are informed and prepared to receive an influx of returning nationals.

The Department views the effective performance of these consular functions as essential to maintaining the integrity of consular relations. It is expected that all foreign missions will ensure that their consular posts are equipped to fulfill these duties.

Questions regarding this matter may be sent to OFM-Policy@state.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KATH' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Department of State,

Washington, May 7, 2025.