

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

**Agreement Between the Government  
of the United States of America and the  
Government of the Republic of  
Honduras for Cooperation in the  
Examination of Protection Requests**

**AGENCY:** Department of Homeland  
Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of Agreement and  
Amendment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland  
Security is publishing the Agreement  
Between the Government of the United  
States of America and the Government  
of the Republic of Honduras for  
Cooperation in the Examination of  
Protection Requests, signed at  
Washington on March 10, 2025 (the

“Agreement”). DHS is also publishing  
an Amendment to the Agreement,  
which consists of diplomatic notes  
exchanged at Tegucigalpa on June 25,  
2025. The text of the Agreement and the  
Amendment are set out below.

**Robert T. Law,**  
*Senior Counselor, U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security.*  
**BILLING CODE 9110-9M-P**

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS  
FOR COOPERATION IN THE EXAMINATION OF PROTECTION REQUESTS**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, hereinafter referred to individually as a Party or collectively as the Parties,

**CONSIDERING** that Honduras is a party to the main international human rights instruments, particularly the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva on July 28, 1951 (the "1951 Convention"), and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York on January 31, 1967 (the "1967 Protocol"). The United States of America is a party to the 1967 Protocol and other relevant international instruments to which Honduras is also a party, and reaffirming the Parties' obligations to provide protection to eligible refugees physically present in their respective territories, in accordance with their obligations under these instruments, subject to the reservations, understandings, and declarations of the Parties;

**RECOGNIZING** in particular the Parties' obligations to comply with the principle of non-refoulement established in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, as well as in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted in New York on December 10, 1984 (the "Convention against Torture"), subject to the Parties' respective reservations, understandings, and declarations of the Parties, and reaffirming their obligations to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their international obligations;

**RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING** each Party's obligations under their national laws, policies, instructions, and agreements;

**HIGHLIGHTING** that the United States of America and Honduras offer asylum and refugee protection systems that are consistent with their obligations under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, and are committed to cooperation and the sharing of responsibilities regarding protection applicants;

**DESIRING** to preserve access to asylum and refugee status or equivalent temporary protection as an essential instrument of international refugee protection, while seeking to prevent fraud in the protection system, which undermines its legitimate purpose, and determined to strengthen the integrity of that institution and the public support on which it depends;

**CONVINCED** that relations between States can enhance international refugee protection by promoting the orderly management of asylum, refuge, or protection requests by the responsible authority and the principle of responsibility-sharing;

**AWARE** that responsibility-sharing must ensure in practice that individuals in need of international protection are identified and that violations of the fundamental principle of non-refoulement are avoided, and therefore determined to ensure that each eligible protection applicant under their jurisdiction has access to a full and fair protection determination procedure;

**AGREE as follows:**

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **Definitions for the purpose of this Agreement:**

1. **"Protection Request"** means a request by an individual to the government of a Party to receive protection in accordance with its obligations under the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, or the Convention against Torture, in accordance with the laws and policies of each Party, or any other equivalent temporary protection available under Honduran immigration law.
2. **"Protection Applicant"** means any individual who submits a Protection Request in the territory of one of the Parties in relation to the obligations of each Party.
3. **"Protection Determination System"** means the set of laws and administrative and judicial practices used by each national government of each Party to adjudicate Protection Requests.
4. **"Unaccompanied Minor"** means a Protection Applicant who has not yet reached eighteen years of age and who does not have a parent or legal guardian present and available to provide care and custody in the country where the Unaccompanied Minor is found, whether in the United States or in Honduras.

## **ARTICLE 2**

This Agreement does not apply to Protection Applicants who are citizens or nationals of Honduras, or who, having no country of nationality, are habitual residents of Honduras.

## **ARTICLE 3**

1. In order to ensure that Protection Applicants have access to a Protection Determination System, or equivalent temporary protection, Honduras shall not return or expel a Protection Applicant referred by the United States until a final administrative decision has been made on the individual's Protection Request. In accordance with its national legislation and international obligations, it is expected that Honduras will determine a procedure to resolve the possible abandonment of requests by individuals transferred under this Agreement.

Honduras reserves the right to accept any Protection Applicant removed under the terms of this Agreement.

2. The acceptance of all individuals transferred under this Agreement will be at the discretion of Honduras.
3. Except for the individuals described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4 and paragraph 2 of Article 5, Honduras shall examine, in accordance with its Protection Determination System, the Protection Request of any individual who submits such a request in Honduran territory after arriving at a port of entry or crossing a border between ports of entry of the United States on or after the entry into force of this Agreement. The Parties shall respect the decisions of each in relation to Protection Determinations made in accordance with their respective national laws.
4. The United States shall apply this Agreement with respect to Unaccompanied Minors in accordance with its domestic laws and international obligations.

#### ARTICLE 4

1. The responsibility for determining the outcome of the Protection Request lies with the United States when the United States determines that the individual:
  - a. Is an Unaccompanied Minor; or
  - b. Arrived in the territory of the United States:
    - i) With a valid visa issued or with another valid admission document, other than transit, issued by the United States; or
    - ii) Without being required to obtain a visa to enter the United States.
2. Honduras shall not dispute any decision by the United States that determines an individual qualifies for an exception under Articles 4 and 5 of this Agreement.
3. The Parties shall establish procedures to ensure that the transfers of Protection Applicants to Honduras comply with the obligations set forth in this Agreement and the national laws of each Party.

**ARTICLE 5**

1. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement, either Party may, at its own discretion, examine any Protection Request submitted to that Party when it determines that it is in the public interest to do so.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be understood as an obligation for the Parties to accept requests from individuals involved in: Crimes against humanity, drug trafficking, terrorism, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, child pornography, human rights violations, and any other activity linked to illicit activities, or who are the subject of Interpol notifications.

**ARTICLE 6**

1. The Parties shall develop standard operating procedures to assist with the implementation of this Agreement.
2. In the event of a conflict or controversy arising from the application of this Agreement, the Parties commit to resolving such matters through dialogue or diplomatic channels.
3. The United States intends to cooperate with Honduras to strengthen institutional capacities with respect to its Protection Determination System.
4. The Parties intend to review this Agreement and its implementation. The first review may be conducted no later than 3 months after the effective date of this Agreement and will be carried out jointly by representatives of each Party.

**ARTICLE 7**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force upon the exchange of notes by both Parties, indicating that each has completed the necessary internal legal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement will automatically renew after each one-year period for an additional year, subject to notification at least 30 days prior to its expiration by either Party of its intention not to renew it.
2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice six months in advance to the other Party.
3. Either Party may, immediately upon written notice to the other Party, suspend the implementation of this Agreement in its entirety for an initial period of up to three months. Such suspension may be renewed for additional periods of up to three months by written notice to the other Party. Either Party may, with the written agreement of the other Party, suspend any part of this Agreement.

4. The Parties may agree in writing to any amendment to this Agreement. When so agreed and approved in accordance with the applicable legal procedures of each Party, an amendment shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.
5. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted in a manner that obligates the Parties to disburse or commit funds. The implementation of this Agreement shall be subject to the availability of funds and technical capacities of each Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement.

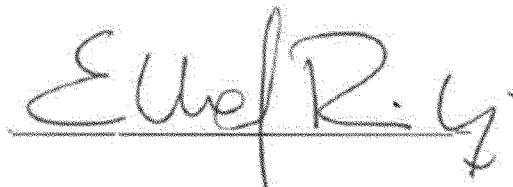
DONE at Washington on the 10 of March, 2025, in duplicate in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



Michael G. Kozak  
Senior Bureau Official  
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS**



Eduardo Enrique Reina García  
Foreign Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Relations and  
International Cooperation

No.2025-0419

The Embassy of the United States of America in Tegucigalpa presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras and has the honor to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras for Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Requests, done at Washington March 10, 2025 (the "Agreement").

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, the Embassy has the honor to propose to amend Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Agreement by replacing that paragraph, in its entirety, with the following:

"Except for the individuals described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4 and paragraph 2 of Article 5, Honduras shall examine, in accordance with its Protection Determination System, the Protection Request of any individual who submits such a request in Honduran territory after arriving at a port of entry or crossing a border between ports of entry of the United States. The Parties shall respect the decisions of each in relation to Protection Determinations made in accordance with their respective national laws."

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

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If this proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Honduras, the Embassy has the honor to propose that this Note, together with an affirmative reply from the Government of the Republic of Honduras, shall form an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras to amend the Agreement (the "Amendment"), and that the Amendment shall enter into force upon the date of the reply from the Government of the Republic of Honduras.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to express to the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Tegucigalpa, June 25, 2025.



U.S. Department of State  
Office of Language Services  
Translating Division



LS No.: 2025-0127928-A  
Spanish/English  
BBM/DK

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TRANSLATION

**Republic of Honduras  
Secretariat of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

Note No. 079-DSM-2025

The Secretariat of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and refers to Embassy note No. 2025-0419, dated June 25, 2025, which reads as follows:

Quote:

The Embassy of the United States of America in Tegucigalpa presents its compliments to the Secretariat of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras and has the honor to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras for Cooperation in the Examination of Protection Requests, done at Washington on March 10, 2025 (the "Agreement").

Embassy of the United States of America,  
Tegucigalpa.

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, the Embassy has the honor to propose to amend Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Agreement by replacing that paragraph, in its entirety, with the following:

“Except for the individuals described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4 and paragraph 2 of Article 5, Honduras shall examine, in accordance with its Protection Determination System, the Protection Request of any individual who submits such a request in Honduran territory after arriving at a port of entry or crossing a border between ports of entry of the United States. The Parties shall respect the decisions of each in relation to Protection Determinations made in accordance with their respective national laws.”

If this proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Honduras, the Embassy has the honor to propose that this Note, together with an affirmative reply from the Government of the Republic of Honduras, shall form an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Honduras to amend the Agreement (the “Amendment”), and that the Amendment shall enter into force upon the date of the reply from the Government of the Republic of Honduras.

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The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to express to the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras the assurances of its highest consideration.

Unquote.

The Secretariat has the honor to confirm that the Government of the Republic of Honduras accepts the proposal contained in note No. 2025-0419, dated June 25, 2025. Accordingly, that note and this note shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Honduras and the Government of the United States to amend the Agreement (the "Amendment") and that this Amendment shall enter into force on the date of this note.

The Secretariat of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Honduras avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its high and distinguished consideration.

Tegucigalpa M.D.C., June 25, 2025

[Initialed]

[Ministry stamp]

[FR Doc. 2025-12631 Filed 7-7-25; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 9110-9M-C

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration  
Services**

[CIS No. 2819-25; DHS Docket No. USCIS-  
2014-0006]

RIN 1615-ZB69

**Termination of the Designation of  
Nicaragua for Temporary Protected  
Status**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Citizenship and  
Immigration Services (USCIS),

Department of Homeland Security  
(DHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Through this notice, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is terminating the designation of Nicaragua for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The designation of Nicaragua is set to expire on July 5, 2025. After reviewing country conditions and consulting with appropriate U.S. Government agencies,