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USTR Releases 2026 Trade Policy Agenda: What To Know

March 9, 2026

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer recently delivered President Trump's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report to Congress.

The report offers insight into the administration's trade goals for the following year and identifies six primary areas of focus:

1. Continuing the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) program.

- The administration will continue negotiating, finalizing, and implementing Agreements on Reciprocal Trade (ART), which are structured to require partner countries to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers while the United States maintains supplemental tariffs above the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rates.
- The report states that multiple ARTs have been signed and that several additional framework arrangements are being converted into binding agreements.
- The agreements also include resolutions of longstanding intellectual property issues identified in prior Special 301 reports.

2. Pursuing robust enforcement of trade agreements and U.S. trade laws.

- The administration will continue to strengthen customs enforcement to prevent duty evasion.
- The administration will also continue to use Section 301 authorities and will potentially initiate new investigations to address discriminatory practices.
- Ongoing areas of focus include China's compliance with prior agreements, digital services taxes and other digital trade measures, pharmaceutical pricing, and semiconductors.

3. Securing supply chains for critical minerals and strategic sectors.

- The agenda emphasizes continued use of trade tools, including Section 232 authorities, to reshore production and diversify sourcing across sectors identified as critical to national security.
- These sectors include pharmaceuticals and medical goods, semiconductors and semiconductor equipment, metals, energy technologies, automotive products, and critical minerals.

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4. Conducting the 2026 joint review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

- In 2026, USTR will lead the joint review of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).
- The administration indicates that the renewal of USMCA will depend on whether these issues are resolved through the review process.

5. Managing trade with China for reciprocity and balance.

- The report states that the United States will continue bilateral engagement with China with the objective of managing trade in a manner it describes as reciprocal and balanced, and references the October 2025 bilateral arrangement as an initial step.

6. Promoting American interests in international fora.

- The administration will use the F7, F20, and OECD to focus on industrial overcapacity, economic imbalances, forced labor, and food security.

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