

# **Exhibit 9**

**From:** [A\\_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov](mailto:A_FOIAacknowledgement@groups.state.gov)  
**To:** [Kevin Schmidt](#)  
**Subject:** Ref: F-2023-01915, Freedom of Information Act Acknowledgement  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 23, 2022 11:43:01 AM

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Mr. Schmidt:

This email acknowledges receipt of your November 17, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552) request received by the U.S. Department of State, Office of Information Programs and Services on November 17, 2022, regarding all internal and external communications (e-mail, text, instant messaging, calendar items, etc.), including attachments (memos, guidance documents, directives, etc.), sent to or by Special Presidential Coordinator for the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment Amos Hochstein (Date Range for Record Search: From 3/1/2022 To 11/17/2022). Unless you advise otherwise, we will treat as non-responsive any compilations of publicly available news reports and any publicly available documents not created by the U.S. government, such as mass-distribution emails from news media. This Office assigned your request the subject reference number and placed it in the complex processing track where it will be processed as quickly as possible. See 22 CFR § 171.11(h). This Office grants your request for a fee waiver.

This Office will not be able to respond within the 20 days provided by the statute due to “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). In this instance, the unusual circumstances include the need to search for and collect requested records from other Department offices or Foreign Service posts.

If you have any questions regarding your request, would like to narrow the scope or arrange an alternative time frame to speed its processing, or would like an estimated date of completion, please contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison by email at [FOIAstatus@state.gov](mailto:FOIAstatus@state.gov) or telephone at 202-261-8484. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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