

Michael C. Gonzales

**DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS**

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Mike Gonzales joined the Bureau of African Affairs in October 2020. His portfolio covers West Africa and Regional Peace and Security. He previously served as the Director for Analysis of Africa in the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Mike previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. at the U.S. Embassies in Kathmandu, Nepal and Lilongwe, Malawi.

Across his career, Mike has built partnerships with host governments, international partners, and civil society organizations to promote good governance, open political space, improve business environments, protect human rights, and expand economic opportunity. His previous assignments include service as the Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs at U.S. Embassies in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia; the Horn of Africa Unit Chief in the Office of East African Affairs; Deputy Public Affairs Officer in Kampala, Uganda; Information Officer and Embassy Spokesman in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Environment, Science, and Technology Officer in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Mike was an economic analyst in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2009, the American Foreign Service Association awarded Mike the William R. Rivkin Award for Constructive Dissent. He is a six-time recipient of the Department of State's Superior Honor Award and the 2011 runner-up for the James Clement Dunn Award for Excellence. Mike received a Master of Arts degree in international development from American University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Diplomacy and World Affairs from Occidental College. He has studied Spanish, French, Italian, and Bengali.

<https://www.state.gov/biographies/michael-c-gonzales/>