Francisco Bencosme, Former China Policy Lead, U.S. Agency for International Development

Francisco Bencosme is the former China policy lead for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) serving as principal advisor to USAID on issues relating to China.

Francisco is currently the Director on the Government Affairs team at the US-China Business Council, where he helps more than 200 American companies navigate US-China issues. Prior to joining USAID, he was deputy to the Special Presidential Envoy for Compact of Free Association negotiations, helping conclude three 20-year compact agreements with Pacific Island nations and over $7 billion in terms of assistance. He concurrently served as senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs on strategic planning and speechwriter.

Before joining the Biden-Harris administration, he was a senior policy advisor at the Open Society Foundations covering Asia and Latin America and led the US human rights policy and advocacy program toward the Asia-Pacific at Amnesty International USA. Francisco has testified before Congress and has provided media commentary on multiple outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. In 2018, Francisco was named one of The Hill's Top 2018 Lobbyist for their campaign on Myanmar Rohingya issues. He previously served as a professional staff member on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is a Council on Foreign Relations term member, a Truman Security Fellow, an International Career Advancement Program Fellow, and a Penn Kemble Fellow.

He received his master's degree in foreign service from Georgetown University and his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University.

Mr. Bencosme has not previously testified before the Commission.