## OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## **GUIDANCE BULLETIN**

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## GUIDANCE ON THE DEPICTION OF THE BOUNDARIES FOR FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA), GUYANA AND SURINAME

**Background:** Due to uncertainty over the sources of streams that formed the boundaries between the dependencies of British, Netherlands, and French Guiana, present-day Guyana, Suriname and the French Overseas Department of French Guiana continue to dispute their common land boundaries and assert claims to territory. Venezuela, furthermore, has asserted claims to half of Guyana's territory since Guyanese independence. While the U.S. Government has adhered to a policy of not taking a position on these claims, in order to respect the territorial integrity of the states, depicts their international boundaries at the time of Guyanese and Surinamese independence on standard maps without showing the claimed areas and disputed boundaries. However, there is no restriction on showing these areas and boundaries on maps intended to highlight the various claims.

**Required disclaimer:** In lieu of depicting claimed territories and labeling the disputed boundaries on standard maps of France (French Guiana), Guyana, and Suriname, the standard boundary disclaimer "Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative" shall be required on all maps showing the international boundaries of these states.