Challenges and Opportunities Ahead for US Business

2026

USCIB

UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

80 years of Global Business Leadership

USCIB's Global Network

For 80 years, USCIB has been a powerful and influential voice for US industries in the global arena, advocating in favor of open markets, sustainable development, clean and just economy, and a level playing field. No other business organization has our unique access to international policymakers and regulatory authorities. We offer our members opportunities to directly participate in – and influence – major discussions and negotiations in national capitals and at major international policymaking forums around the world.

USCIB has continuously pursued dialogue and collaboration with Administrations to advance member priorities and amplify American values, innovations, and solutions to global challenges at home and abroad.

Major International Developments Impacting US Business in 2026

USCIB helps US companies seize opportunities and manage risks in an uncertain global landscape. Deregulation, technological innovation, and emerging global tax alignment promise increased economic productivity while immigration, trade, and industrial policies strain supply chains, access to critical minerals, labor markets, and longstanding alliances. Conflicts and strategic rivalries are polarizing the global economy, adding uncertainty and costs to doing business. Meanwhile, the US government continues to question its engagement in international organizations that are shaping rules impacting business in the global arena.

USCIB is the steadfast voice of US business abroad, ensuring US values shape the rules, standards, and guidelines that govern business operations in global markets. Through our unique affiliations and partnerships in international bodies, including the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the World Trade Organization, and the OECD, we will shape the debate on everything from corporate taxation on global revenue; technological innovation, trade facilitation, and regulatory cohesion; science and evidence-based standards for agriculture and health; intellectual property protection; circularity and sustainability of operations; and liability for foreign supply chains. With so much at stake, it is imperative that US businesses are successfully represented at every phase of global policy development.

With more than 80 years of global business leadership, USCIB remains unmatched in our ability to drive results in the global arena.

A Sample of What We Are Focused on Right Now

Trade and Tariffs

The America First Trade Policy, marked by tariff measures and safeguards for critical industries, is reshaping supply chains and causing market uncertainty for global businesses. Moreover, the rise of economic nationalism and strategic rivalries threaten a more fragmented and economically divided world. Open and stable markets are imperative to US companies that grow their business by trading with the 96 percent of consumers outside of the United States. USCIB will continue to champion at home and abroad pro-growth strategies that ameliorate tariff turbulence, remove regulatory overreach, ease compliance complexity, and promote supply chain stability.

Taxation of International Business

The implementation of the OECD Side-by-Side package and the ongoing dialogue on the taxation of the digital economy will ensure that the next six months will be highly active for global tax policy. Moreover, the European Union has embarked on an ambitious tax simplification agenda, which will create opportunities as well as challenges for US business. The OECD has also proposed significant changes to its transfer pricing guidelines and is updating the model rules for the taxation of the platform economy. USCIB is actively engaged in all of these developments. At the same time, the United Nations continues its work on the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation. These negotiations will continue in August, and it is expected that there will be increased attention on US business in light of the UN's actions. USCIB will be present at the negotiations and will track their impact both at the UN and at the local country level.

Critical Minerals and Chemicals Policy

Critical minerals are essential to technology, advanced manufacturing, and the energy transition. The June 2026 G7 leaders' declaration on securing supply chains for critical minerals has significant implications for companies and global trade. G7 leaders also underscored the important role of the OECD and the International Energy Agency (IEA). USCIB will represent US business in upcoming OECD meetings on critical minerals, as well as at meetings where policies are being negotiated, such as at the Global Framework on Chemicals—First International Conference and at the UN on a Business and Human Rights Treaty. USCIB aims to strengthen supply chain security and protect US business' access to critical minerals while reflecting our members' operational realities and strategic priorities.

Major Environmental Trends

The second half of 2026 is expected to bring a strong focus on multilateral process efficiency across international environmental governance, especially within the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change (UNFCCC). This is a direct response to the US government's decision to withdraw from the Convention, leaving behind a major UNFCCC budget shortfall. In November, USCIB will lead a US business delegation to UN Climate COP31 in Turkey. US business leaders have a unique opportunity to contribute their expertise to help shape the next phase of global climate governance.

USCIB will continue supporting the intersessional period leading up to the next negotiating meeting on an international plastic pollution treaty. We will convene sessions for members to engage with senior Administration officials to ensure that US business views remain prioritized in the process.

USCIB will also represent US business at UN Biodiversity COP17 in Armenia, which will focus on the first global review of implementation progress of the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Cali Fund, and the access and benefit sharing of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Digital Policy and Artificial Intelligence

Digital policies, such as rising fragmentation and new AI plans and regulations by governments that stifle innovation and investment, will greatly impact US business through 2026. USCIB is working directly through the OECD, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the UN to ensure the private sector's expertise shapes key negotiations. We are coordinating multistakeholder position statements with the technical community to push back on the fragmentation of AI regulations and to promote cross-border data flows and drive advocacy on cybersecurity and scams to advance an open, free, and secure digital future for all.

Engagement at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

USCIB is deeply engaged at APEC, promoting open markets, economic development, and greater integration between the 21 member economies. Through 2026, we are focused on enhanced cooperation with respect to e-commerce, trade facilitation, the ATA Carnet System, regulatory practices, free flow of data and privacy rules, cross border delivery of AI, food security, and healthcare systems.

Food and Agriculture

As policymakers continue to evaluate nutrition, food labeling, and ingredient-related regulatory frameworks, USCIB will advocate for science and risk-based approaches that support consumer confidence and avoid unnecessary burdens on food manufacturers, innovation, and trade. Regenerative agriculture remains a priority for our members, and USCIB will continue to promote practical, voluntary, and outcome-based approaches that foster farmer adoption, productivity, resilience, and long-term sustainability. USCIB will engage through the OECD Committee on Agriculture (COAG), and related workstreams, to advance policies that encourage innovation, investment, and sustainable productivity growth while avoiding prescriptive compliance models.

USCIB is organizing an inaugural *Rome Week* in November to reinforce the role of the private sector in advancing resilient food systems and science-based policymaking. Through COAG, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Codex, and other international forums, USCIB will work to ensure that evolving international expectations reflect practical business realities, support farmer viability, and avoid unnecessary barriers to trade.

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