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Michael Froman is a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR); vice chairman and president, strategic growth, at Mastercard; and James R. Schlesinger distinguished professor at the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs. Prior to joining CFR, Froman served as the 17th U.S. trade representative (USTR), sworn in under President Obama in June of 2013. In this capacity, he served in the cabinet as President Obama's principal advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson on international trade and investment issues. He also led the Office of the United States Trade Representative in its work to open global markets for U.S. goods and services, enforcing the United States' rights in the global trading system, and fostering development through trade. Critical initiatives undertaken at the Office of the United States Trade Representative under Froman's leadership included negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement in the Asia-Pacific, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union, negotiation of agreements on services, information technology, and trade facilitation at the World Trade Organization, and monitoring and enforcing U.S. trade rights, including through the Interagency Trade and Enforcement Center (ITEC).

Before his appointment as USTR, Froman served as assistant to the president and deputy national security advisor for international economic affairs, where he was responsible for coordinating policy on international trade and finance, energy security and climate change, and development and democracy issues. He served as the U.S. sherpa for the G20 and G8 summits, and staffed the president for the APEC Leaders Meetings. He chaired or co-chaired the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, the Transatlantic Economic Council, the U.S.-India CEO Forum and the U.S.-Brazil CEO Forum. From 2001 until 2009, Froman managed various businesses at Citigroup, as chief executive officer of its international insurance business, chief operating officer of alternative investments, and head of its infrastructure investment fund. He spent seven years in the U.S. government under President Clinton, serving as chief of staff and as deputy assistant secretary for Eurasia and the Middle East at the U.S. Department of Treasury. He was also director for international economic affairs at the National Security Council and National Economic Council.

Froman received a bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University, a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.