

Information requested from States parties in relation to achieving the commitments regarding corruption prevention from the UNGASS political declaration.

Please describe (cite and summarize) measures/steps your country has taken, if any (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to implement the commitments contained in paragraphs 1 to 22 (preventive measures) of the UNGASS political declaration.

The United States has taken a number of important measures to achieving the commitments made in the UNGASS political declaration. One of the most significant was made at the time of the UNGASS itself when, on June 3, 2021, President Biden established the fight against corruption as a core U.S. national security interest. At that time, he directed his national security team to lead the creation of a comprehensive strategy that, when implemented, would improve the U.S. government's ability to prevent corruption; foster international cooperation; more effectively combat illicit finance, better hold corrupt actors accountable, and strengthen the capacity of activists, investigative journalists, and others on the front lines of exposing corrupt acts.

On December 6, the Biden-Harris Administration culminated this process by releasing the first-ever United States Strategy on Countering Corruption. The Strategy outlines a whole-of-government approach to elevating the fight against corruption. It places particular emphasis on better understanding and responding to the threat's transnational dimensions, including by taking additional steps to reduce the ability of corrupt actors to use the U.S. and international financial systems to hide assets and launder the proceeds of corrupt acts. Among the Strategy's core pillars is "preserving and strengthening the multilateral anti-corruption architecture" further reaffirming the United States' commitment to the UNCAC.

The United States has also taken a series of measures to strengthen measures to combat illicit finance and money laundering, in line with the commitments outlined in the political declaration. In December 2021, the U.S. Financial Intelligence Unit – the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) - announced an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to solicit public comment on a potential rule to address the vulnerabilities of the U.S. commercial and residential real estate market to money laundering and other illicit activity. The systemic money laundering vulnerabilities presented by the U.S. real estate sector, and consequently, the ability of illicit actors to launder criminal proceeds through the purchase of real estate, threatens U.S. national security and the integrity of the U.S. financial system. The ANPRM will assist FinCEN in preparing a proposed rule that would enhance the transparency of the overall domestic real estate market on a nationwide basis and protect the U.S. real estate market from exploitation by criminals and corrupt officials.

In December 2021, FinCEN also issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to implement the beneficial ownership information reporting provisions of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). The proposed rule is designed to protect the U.S. financial system from illicit use and impede bad actors from abusing legal entities, like shell companies, to conceal proceeds of corrupt and criminal acts. Such abuses undermine U.S. national security, economic fairness, and the integrity of the U.S. financial system. The proposed rule addresses, among other things, who must report beneficial ownership information, when they must report, and what information they must provide. Collecting this information and providing access to law enforcement, financial institutions, and other authorized users will diminish the ability of bad actors to hide, move, and enjoy the proceeds of illicit activities.