

Recommendations for Ukraine from the Democracy and Civil Society Task Force

- Fully implement the IMF-Ukraine new Stand-By-Arrangement, and its conditionality, benchmarks and policy priorities, including mitigating the severe economic impact of COVID-19 and maintaining and moving forward on key governance and anti-corruption measures.
- Continue to make concrete and demonstrable progress in 2020-2021 implementing reforms, strengthening the rule of law, protecting human rights, promoting further reform of the judicial system and of law enforcement structures, and more resolutely combat corruption.
- Commit to ensuring that democratic and reform progress and anti-corruption measures will move forward and be a priority even as the government addresses and seeks to mitigate the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19.
- Immediately cease using the judiciary system for the purposes of politically-motivated prosecutions targeting political opponents and former officials. The manipulation of the judicial system and selective justice raise serious questions regarding Ukraine's commitment to the rule of law and democracy.
- Reform the Security Service of Ukraine, including adopting new legislation to strengthen the protection of human rights and eliminate interference in business activities.
- Reform law enforcement agencies, including the Ministry of Interior, to ensure respect for individual rights, greater accountability, and the end to impunity.
- Resume reform of the Prosecutor General's Office to ensure its transparency, professionalism and political independence.

- Closely cooperate with civil society organizations to improve upon the new electoral code for national and local elections, including addressing the issue of combatting corruption in elections.
- Integral to democratic reforms, ensure transparent appointment of officials in strategic government positions and refrain from dismissing or unduly pressuring reform-minded ones without legal grounds.
- President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian government must ensure the independence of the National Bank of Ukraine.
- Strengthen the rule of law by reshuffling tainted judicial self-governance bodies, ensure a transparent and competitive selection process for the court apparatus and take other measures recommended by civil society and international experts to improve judicial independence, integrity, professionalism and accountability.
- Promote further judicial reform to ensure impartiality, credibility and professionalism of the High Council of Justice and minimization of its influence on the High Qualifications Commission of Judges.
- Shore up efforts to safeguard the effectiveness of anti-corruption legal tools and institutions.
- Encourage Ukraine's pro-reform forces, civil society and judiciary system to undertake and implement reforms that would better hold corrupt officials to account.
- Support and refrain from further undermining the work of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU); safeguard existing anti-corruption legislation from being watered down.
- Support efforts aimed at further institutional strengthening of the High Anti-Corruption Court and its provision with all the necessary resources for uninterrupted operation; help

ensure anti-corruption institutions work together in fostering rule of law and transparent, accountable government.

- Ensure transparency, efficiency, and political independence of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) and other anti-corruption agencies.
- Remove or amend legislation that unduly and unfairly hampers the work of civil society and refrain from further attempts to limit the space for its operation. Prevent any expressions of legislative, media, physical and other types of pressure on civil society as one of Ukraine's major reform drivers.
- Thoroughly and impartially investigate and bring to justice all instances of killings and other attacks on civil society activists, journalists, and members of minority groups, including Roma.
- Cooperate with civil society organizations engaged in efforts to promote and protect human rights.
- Secure media reform, enable uninterrupted and safe operation of independent media and ensure freedom of speech, including securing sufficient and stable funding for Ukraine's public broadcaster (UA:PBC).
- Work with civil society and media to counter increased internal and external disinformation efforts, by Russia, directed at undermining Ukraine's democracy, its COVID-19 response and EU and NATO integration.
- Ensure health reform implementation in accordance with the previously developed model, particularly in secondary care, as well as guarantee institutional independence of the National Health Service.