

Recommendations for the United States from the Democracy and Civil Society Task Force

- Increase and immediately extend, as needed, U.S. assistance and diplomatic engagement with Ukraine to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and to address economic, medical, societal, human rights and other challenges, protecting Ukraine's most vulnerable population, including in Crimea and the Donbas.
- Increase support for Ukraine's civil society and independent media to safeguard and strengthen Ukraine's democracy, good governance, rule of law, human rights, citizen trust, mitigation of corruption and ensure a more transparent, effective and accountable response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Increase support for Ukraine's civil society and media to effectively address disinformation campaigns.
- Increase U.S. bipartisan, political and diplomatic engagement with the Ukrainian government and civil society, private sector and international partners to support adoption and implementation of reforms in Ukraine that focus on democracy, rule of law, anti-corruption efforts and law enforcement.
- Support and coordinate with the International Monetary Fund and other international partners the implementation of the IMF-Ukraine new Stand-By-Arrangement, its stringent conditionality, benchmarks and policy priorities, including mitigating the severe economic impact of COVID-19 and maintaining and moving forward key governance and anti-corruption measures.
- Urge President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian government to ensure the independence of the National Bank of Ukraine critical to Ukraine's macroeconomic and fiscal stability and engagement with international financial institutions.

- Support and urge President Zelenskyy and the government to fully implement and carry out critical anti-corruption, law enforcement, judicial, banking and democratic reforms.
- Support enhanced dialogue and collaboration between Ukrainian civil society organizations and government to advance key reforms, including fulfilling good governance and democratic principles envisioned in the 2019 Toronto Principles (to be reinforced at the Ukraine Reform Conference 2020).
- Urge the Ukrainian government to demonstrate its continued commitment to due process and the rule of law, ensure public confidence in democratic institutions and the constitutional reform process, and avoid selective justice, including in the persecution of political opponents. Discourage improper use of investigatory and prosecutorial functions against political opponents and former officials.
- Deepen political, development and economic cooperation among the U.S., European Union, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, and other partners of Ukraine to strengthen Ukrainian democracy, resiliency, fight against corruption and continued Russian aggression.
- Urge the U.S. Congress to continue to provide political support for Ukraine and engage -- including through hearings, resolutions and statements, and through direct dialogue with Ukrainian lawmakers -- on Ukraine's democratic reform efforts and play a role in determining, as necessary, conditionality on U.S. assistance to Ukraine.
- The U.S. should re-energize and utilize in 2020-2021 the three bilateral working groups (on Security and Countering Russian Aggression, Rule of Law and Humanitarian Issues, and Economy and Energy) created in November 2018 in the framework of the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission to strengthen the U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership, advance Ukraine's democratic and economic reforms and deepen its Euro-Atlantic integration.

- Maintain, and, as necessary, increase, U.S. government funding to strengthen Ukraine's election processes, including local elections in October 2020, to ensure that elections meet international democratic standards and are free, fair, open and transparent.
- Consider providing additional funding, as needed, to help Ukraine defend its election infrastructure against cyberattacks from Russia and other malign actors.
- Intensify diplomatic and political support for Ukraine's civil society to strengthen their efforts to combat corruption, monitor government and hold it accountable, as well as ensure that authorities cease any attempts to curtail activists' lawful activities or attacks and pressure on them.
- Urge the Ukrainian government, including the Ukrainian National Police and other law enforcement agencies, to ensure the safety and security of NGOs and investigate and hold accountable individuals responsible for attacks on human rights defenders, civic activists, and journalists.
- Maintain, and increase, where appropriate, current levels of U.S. government funding and technical assistance to further develop and strengthen civil society organizations, with a focus on their institutional development and capacity building.
- Maintain, and increase, where appropriate, U.S. training for reform-oriented national political parties.
- Where appropriate, the U.S. should apply targeted conditionality to development and macroeconomic assistance support focused on the passage and implementation of key democratic and rule of law reforms, including independent and impartial courts, law enforcement agencies, and comprehensive reform of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), including curtailing investigations of business activity.
- Increase or maintain current levels of U.S. government funding for academic, professional, and people-to-people exchanges through existing – and new – exchange programs with Ukraine.

- Increase or maintain current levels of U.S. government funding for the development of independent and investigative media in Ukraine.
- Continue to fund the Ukrainian Services of the Voice of America and Radio Liberty at levels that enable them to vigorously respond to Russian disinformation as well as the informational shortcomings and biases of oligarch-controlled media in Ukraine.
- Increase or maintain current levels of U.S. government funding for civil society organizations engaged in human rights monitoring, defense, and advocacy throughout Ukraine, including Crimea and the Russia-occupied territories of the Donbas.
- Continue U.S. assistance in support of decentralization in Ukraine, empowering local governments and communities as purveyors and implementers of reforms and more responsive governance.
- Target U.S. assistance for programs to improve trust and confidence and reconciliation between citizens and government in eastern Ukraine.
- Focus U.S. assistance on strengthening the capacity of all branches of the Ukrainian government to fulfill implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and further Euro-Atlantic integration.
- Continue to condemn diplomatically and hold accountable the Russian Federation and proxies for its illegal invasion, occupation and annexation of Ukraine's Crimea and for ongoing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Crimea and the Donbas.
- Retain and strengthen U.S. sanctions against Russia and its proxies for their egregious human rights violations in Crimea and the Donbas.