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№ TI – 568 as of 17 August 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

August 17, 2021

RE: New Anti-Corruption Capacity in Ukraine Could Come from the CROOK Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell,

Transparency International Ukraine writes to ask that you support the Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy Act (the “CROOK Act”) and help see that it is passed into law.

TI Ukraine grew from a small nonprofit that began operations in 1999 into one of the country’s leading civil society organizations, working to reduce the level of corruption in Ukraine. TIU has assisted the Ukrainian government in building anti-corruption infrastructure, administering public procurement reform, supporting the rights of whistleblowers, and strengthening international cooperation.

In the years following the 2014 Revolution of Dignity, we have experienced success in partnering with the government to create new bodies and offices to counter corruption. Entities established in the past few years include the National Agency on Corruption Prevention, National Anti-Corruption Bureau, Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office, and the High Anti-Corruption Court. There is also a new executive body responsible for asset management and



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recovery. Since all these bodies are relatively new, they face certain drawbacks and need improvement to perform their duties independently and efficiently. We remain optimistic and work to strengthen their efficacy in fighting corruption in the country.

Ukraine is moving in the right direction toward a more just, transparent society as the perception of corruption continues to change. But while corruption has been elevated and recognized as a serious problem, we are beginning to lose speed in fighting it. There is a strong public will to achieve reform, supported by existing legislation and infrastructure, but these mechanisms must be backed by strong enforcement. Otherwise, the public will lose confidence in these institutions. The funds provided by the CROOK Act could increase Ukrainian civil society's capacity to push for stronger, quicker enforcement from these agencies and bodies and help ensure that new reforms are sustained throughout the coming years. The support from the U.S. has been enormous, but this is only the beginning for Ukraine.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Iryna Mykulych, International Relations Manager for TI Ukraine, at mykulych@ti-ukraine.org or +380669944247.

Sincerely,

Andrii Borovyk
Executive Director
Transparency International Ukraine

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Andrii Borovyk", written over a faint horizontal line.