

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to both thank you for establishing the position of Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption at the U.S. Department of State and urge you to move swiftly to appoint someone who can effectively implement the critical mission outlined in the announcement.

The diverse organizations signing onto this letter understand the corrosive impact of corruption on human rights, national security, public health and safety, environmental preservation, sustainable economies, and democratic rights and freedoms. We were thus heartened to hear you announce in December the creation of this position to “integrate and elevate the fight against corruption across all aspects of U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance.”

As you look to fill the position, we urge you to consider several important criteria that will determine a candidate’s ability to meet the mission. A successful candidate should:

1. Have a strong working knowledge of the anti-corruption field. With the quickly developing opportunities to make historic progress on these issues globally—including increased interest at virtually all of the leading multilateral bodies, convenings, and conventions—this person should bring a high level of knowledge and expertise that affords them instant credibility on the world stage.
2. Be able to work closely and clearly communicate with civil society organizations that have valuable expertise and experience working in all regions of the world. The person should view our organizations and others as partners willing and able to move a global anti-corruption agenda and capitalize on the interest and energy of the moment.
3. Be able to navigate within the State Department and across other departments and agencies to help ensure coordination and identify potential resources to maximize the impact of the office on combating global corruption.

We applaud the State Department’s recognition of the role corruption plays in undermining our nation’s foreign policy goals and the ability of all nations to create and sustain prosperous and free societies. A candidate with the above combination of knowledge and skills offers significant hope for meaningful progress.

We thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with you and the coordinator on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Accountability Lab
Africa Faith and Justice Network

Anti-Corruption Data Collective
Basel Institute on Governance
Bekker Compliance Consulting Partners, LLC
California Reinvestment Coalition
Coalition for Integrity
Crude Accountability
EG Justice
Free Russia Foundation
Global Financial Integrity
Global Integrity
Global Witness
Hudson Institute's Kleptocracy Initiative
Human Rights First
Integrity Initiatives International
International Coalition Against Illicit Economies (ICAIE)
Never Again Coalition
PartnersGlobal
The Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency (FACT) Coalition
The Sentry
Transatlantic Democracy Working Group
Transparency International – U.S. Office