

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Room 7226  
Harry S. Truman Building  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

February 18, 2022

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We look forward to the United States hosting the 2022 Summit of the Americas. As you and your colleagues plan for the Summit, we respectfully ask you to consider a few key items regarding continuity and accountability in the Summit process.

#### Background and Context

The Summit's theme, *Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future*, appropriately encompasses the shared hopes for the region as a whole and individual nations.

To ensure a productive event that meaningfully advances the laudable theme, we urge Summit planners to recognize that multilateral gatherings such as this Summit do not happen in isolation. In 2018, these same nations came together in Lima, Peru to discuss the theme, *Democratic Governance Against Corruption*. At that Summit, country commitments were made to combat corruption. Those commitments must not be forgotten.

It is understandable that each host country seeks to put its own imprimatur on the event. But without continuity and accountability from one Summit to the next, it is impossible to gauge progress on important issues and ensure lasting value from these gatherings.

The Lima gathering highlighted the fight against corruption, a clearly stated priority for this Administration. The President's June 2021 National Security Study Memorandum officially recognized, for the first time in U.S. history, corruption as a core national security interest. Corruption was one of three pillars of the U.S.-hosted Summit for Democracy. The first ever U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption emphasizes the "transnational dimensions of the challenges posed by corruption." And, in a visit to Central America last year, Vice President Harris spoke specifically to this issue as it pertains to the region, saying, "We must root out corruption wherever it exists... It erodes the confidence the people have in their government and its leaders." Clearly, the theme in Peru continues to have resonance today.

Additionally, sustainable, resilient and equitable societies cannot flourish in a corrupt environment. As such, the fight against corruption is a fundamental element of building such societies.

## Recommendations

It is with this context that we encourage you to consider the following for this year's Summit:

1. If a declaration is agreed to at this year's Summit, it should include language clarifying that the fight against corruption continues to be a significant ongoing concern and that countries agree to follow through on outstanding 2018 anti-corruption commitments until those goals are achieved.
2. A session is held as a part of the official Summit agenda on progress and remaining challenges in the continuing fight against corruption with perspectives from government, private sector and civil society voices.
3. Publication of the official report on the Lima Summit that includes an honest assessment of each country's progress and where additional work needs to continue. We encourage you to include input from the [civil society monitoring reports](#) that were developed with support from the U.S. Department of State.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to discussing these issues with you further. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,



Delia Ferreira Rubio  
Chair  
Transparency International



Gary Kalman  
Director  
Transparency International, U.S. Office

Cc: James Lambert, Secretary, Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs, Organization of American States