

well-being of so many people in the developing world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, where the likelihood of food insecurity looms larger thanks to the pandemic.

Just how bad is it?

Swarms of hundreds of millions of locusts darken the sky, descend upon an area, stripping it entirely of its vegetation. Crops are just decimated in a matter of minutes and hours.

Unfortunately, due in part to this bad timing with a pandemic, we are witnessing the real possibility of famine in many countries of east Africa, where over 27 million people are now estimated to be suffering from acute food insecurity, which is defined as the sudden lack of food or the ability to produce or access minimum requirements of food.

I should note that in the case of one of the nations most impacted, Ethiopia, the political situation has simultaneously deteriorated, so that the country is now on the brink of civil war with the added crisis of refugees fleeing conflicted areas added to the mix of cascading calamities and compounding crises.

Indeed, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the FAO, estimates that this infestation of locusts will persist until at least March 2021 in both Ethiopia and Somalia.

Our bill would create an interagency working group comprised of representatives of the USAID, State, the NSC, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture to formulate a strategic plan to address this and future locust outbreaks, as well as other similarly destructive pests, such as fall armyworm, which wreaks tremendous havoc on crops annually.

The working group would also include a representative from our mission to the United Nations food agencies based in Rome, where our current ambassador, Kip Tom, is doing a stellar job interacting with both the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as locust-impacted countries.

Ambassador Kip Tom has briefed me and others repeatedly. We have talked about best practices on the phone in Skype phone calls, and again, I want to single him out for the tremendous job that he has done in trying to mitigate this crisis.

The World Food Programme has also been a tremendous help, as it has been in so many other places around the world, under the extraordinary leadership of David Beasley.

□ 1345

Indeed, the international community has recognized the yeoman's work by awarding the World Food Program the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ambassador Tom has been pushing the FAO in particular to proactively address the problem and adopt the better use of technology. For example, use of apps on smartphones in Kenya advocated by the Ambassador has led to

roughly 80 percent of the data collected on the location of desert locusts, thereby allowing for the targeted mobilization of aerial assets for locust eradication and control.

It is innovation such as this, and the adoption of best practices, which our interagency group will focus on identifying and implementing. Indeed, we also think that the working group will help ensure that our taxpayer dollars are spent in the most effective way possible. The United States Government has committed over \$24 million to the USAID, and that has made a difference as well.

While the focus of our bill is on East Africa, other countries like Yemen, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are threatened by these spreading swarms as well. Indeed, Yemen has become a breeding ground for locusts crossing over into the Horn of Africa, compounding the problem caused by indigenous swarms in the countries of the Horn.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for the bill. And again, I thank our distinguished chairman for his leadership on this bill and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. SMITH for his work on this legislation. Mr. SMITH, through the years, has done great work on so many issues. I think he is the only one on the Foreign Affairs Committee that has actually been there longer than I have. We have collaborated on a good many projects, bipartisan projects, through the years. I thank Mr. SMITH for being such a good member of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation. It is very important. It is very important for our country. It is very important for the world. I urge all my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7276, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5586) to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti and the strength of democracy and rule of law in the country, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5586

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck near the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince, leaving an estimated 220,000 people dead, including 103 United States citizens, 101 United Nations personnel, and nearly 18 percent of the nation's civil service, as well as 300,000 injured, 115,000 homes destroyed, and 1,500,000 people displaced.

(2) The Post Disaster Needs Assessment conducted by the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and others estimated that damage and economic losses from the January 12, 2010, earthquake totaled \$7,804,000,000.

(3) The international community, led by the United States and the United Nations, mounted an unprecedented humanitarian response to the earthquake in Haiti. Through 2018, more than \$8 billion has been disbursed by donors. Since the 2010 earthquake, the United States Government has disbursed more than \$4,000,000,000 in recovery and development funding.

(4) On October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew struck southwestern Haiti on the Tiburon Peninsula, causing widespread damage and flooding and leaving 1.4 million people in need of immediate assistance. Recovery efforts continue more than three years later.

(5) Prior to both the earthquake and hurricane, Haiti registered among the lowest socioeconomic indicators and had the second highest rate of income disparity in the world - conditions that have further complicated disaster recovery and resilience efforts.

(6) In June 2019 the World Food Program reported that Haiti has one of the highest levels of chronic food insecurity in the world, with more than half of its total population chronically food insecure and 22 percent of children chronically malnourished.

(7) In October 2010, an unprecedented outbreak of cholera in Haiti resulted in over 800,000 reported cases and over 9,000 deaths to date. The Pan American Health Organization reported in 2018 that the cholera incidence rate in Haiti is 25.5 cases per 100,000.

(8) With United States assistance, almost 14,000 jobs have been created since the 2010 earthquake, largely in the apparel industry at the Caracol Industrial Park (in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Haitian Government, and the private sector) in northern Haiti.

(9) According to the Haitian National Human Rights Defense Network, on November 13, 2018, at least 59 people were shot and killed in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of La Saline. After months of investigations, no one has been held responsible for the La Saline massacre.

(10) Since 2018, tens of thousands of Haitians have participated in popular demonstrations demanding accountability over government management of Petrocaribe resources. In early 2019, the Haitian superior court of auditors released a series of reports implicating high-level government officials in the misappropriation of funds.

(11) From August 2018 through February 2019, local human rights organizations reported that 64 Haitian citizens were killed in protests.

(12) According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, five Haitian journalists were shot while covering protests in 2019 and one was killed. On September 23, 2019, Associated Press photojournalist Chery Dieu-Nalio was shot by Haitian Senator Jean Marie Ralph F  thi  re when the Senator fired multiple shots near a crowd outside of parliament.

(13) Economic growth in Haiti is projected to drop below 1.5 percent this year. Inflation is estimated to be 15 percent and the local currency has depreciated by 30 percent in the past year. The Haitian government and parliament have failed to pass a budget for two years, preventing the International Monetary Fund and other multilaterals from disbursing millions in international assistance.

(14) Midterm elections set for October 2019 did not take place, and since January 2020 President Mo  se has ruled by decree.

### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to support the sustainable rebuilding and development of Haiti in a manner that—

(1) recognizes Haitian independence, self-reliance, sovereignty, democratic governance, and efficiency;

(2) promotes Haitian-led efforts for reconstruction and development of Haiti;

(3) strengthens the capacity of civil society and supports private sector initiatives that foster economic opportunities in Haiti;

(4) fosters collaboration between the Haitian diaspora in the United States and the Haitian Government;

(5) combats impunity and prioritizes delivering justice to victims of human rights abuses;

(6) ensures the protection of press freedoms and promotion of a free and independent Haitian press;

(7) promotes respect for freedom of assembly and the rights of Haitians to peacefully demonstrate;

(8) demands increased transparency and accountability among all branches of government and supports anti-corruption and addresses human rights concerns;

(9) prioritizes strengthening community resilience to environmental and weather-related impacts; and

(10) promotes democratic principles, including free, fair, and timely elections in accordance with the Haitian Constitution.

### SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN HAITI AND HOLDING PERPETRATORS OF LA SALINE MASSACRE ACCOUNTABLE.

(a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize the protection of human rights and anti-corruption efforts in Haiti by—

(1) fostering strong relationships with independent civil society groups focused on monitoring corruption and human rights abuses and promoting democracy in Haiti;

(2) supporting the efforts of the Haitian Government to identify human rights violators and corrupt actors in Haiti, including public and private sector actors, and hold them accountable for their actions; and

(3) addressing concerns of impunity for alleged orchestrators of the La Saline massacre.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with nongovernmental organizations in Haiti and the United States, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed assessment of the happenings on November 13, 2018, in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood

of La Saline. The assessment shall include the following:

(A) An examination of any links between the massacre in La Saline and mass protests that occurred concurrently in the country.

(B) An analysis of the reports on the La Saline massacre authored by the United Nations, the European Union, and the Haitian Government.

(C) A detailed description of all known actors implicated in the shooting.

(D) An overview of efforts taken by the Haitian Government to bring the orchestrators of the La Saline massacre to justice.

(E) An assessment of the ensuing treatment and displacement of the La Saline shooting survivors.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The assessment required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

### SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND ASSEMBLY IN HAITI.

The Secretary of State shall prioritize the promotion of press and assembly freedoms, as well as the protection of journalists, in Haiti by—

(1) advocating for increased protections for the press and the freedom to peacefully assemble in Haiti;

(2) collaborating with government and nongovernment officials to develop and implement legal protections for journalists in Haiti;

(3) supporting efforts to strengthen transparency and access to information in Haiti;

(4) ensuring that threats and attacks on journalists and protesters are fully investigated and perpetrators are held accountable;

(5) developing increased protection measures for peaceful protesters in accordance with Haitian law; and

(6) financing efforts to strengthen capacity for independent journalists and increase support for investigative journalism.

### SEC. 6. ACTIONS TO SUPPORT POST-EARTHQUAKE AND POST-HURRICANE RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT IN HAITI.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall prioritize post-earthquake and post-hurricane recovery and development efforts in Haiti by—

(1) collaborating with the Haitian Government on a detailed and transparent development plan that includes clear objectives and benchmarks;

(2) building the capacity of local institutions through post-earthquake and post-hurricane recovery and development planning;

(3) assessing the impact of both the United States' and the international community's recovery and development efforts in Haiti over the past 10 years;

(4) supporting disaster resilience and reconstruction efforts; and

(5) addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality, including by providing health resources, access to clean water, food, and shelter.

### SEC. 7. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A strategy for carrying out the initiatives described in sections 4, 5, and 6, including established baselines, benchmarks, and indicators to measure outcomes and impact.

(2) An assessment of corruption in Haiti, including an analysis of corruption among

the public and private sectors, a list of government and nongovernment officials known or alleged to have partaken in corruption or human rights violations, and a list of United States entities, including financial institutions, with financial ties to alleged corrupt actors in Haiti.

(3) An overview of efforts taken by the Haitian Government to address public and private sector corruption.

(4) A description of United States Government efforts to consult and engage with Haitian Government officials and independent civil society groups focused on monitoring corruption and human rights abuses and promoting democracy in Haiti to address the Petrocaribe scandal and other acts of corruption within the Haitian Government.

(5) An assessment of the Haitian Government's efforts to support displaced survivors of urban and gang violence.

(6) A detailed description of all known attacks on journalists in the past since the beginning of "country lock" protests in July 2018.

(7) An assessment of the Haitian Government's response to civic protests that have taken place since July 2018 and any allegations of human rights abuses.

(8) An analysis of the Haitian Government's efforts to increase protection for journalists.

(9) A description of United States Government-led efforts to promote press freedom in Haiti over the last three years and an outline of any additional best practices the United States Government can employ to promote press freedom and the freedom of expression in Haiti.

(10) A plan, developed in collaboration with the Haitian Government, to support development goals that includes the following:

(A) Strengthening institutions at the national and local levels.

(B) Strengthening democratic governance at the national and local levels.

(11) A description of best practices to ensure efficient and transparent earthquake and hurricane recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

(12) An analysis of the effectiveness and sustainability of United States-financed development projects, including the Caracol Industrial Park and supporting infrastructure.

(13) A breakdown of local procurement by year and a description of efforts to increase local procurement, including food aid.

(14) The design of quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess progress and benchmarks for United States initiatives focused on natural disaster recovery, resilience, and sustainable development in Haiti.

(15) A description of United States efforts taken to assist the Haitian people in their pursuits for free and fair democratic elections.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall consult with nongovernmental organizations and civil society groups in Haiti and the United States, as well as the Government of Haiti where appropriate.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

### SEC. 8. DEFINITION.

In this Act the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 5586.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking Mr. JEFFRIES for authoring this bipartisan bill. He has been a strong advocate for the Haitian people, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

There are many, many colleagues in this Congress who feel very strongly about the U.S. relationship with Haiti. I am certainly one of them, and I know Mr. SMITH is and, of course, Mr. JEFFRIES and many other people on our committee.

We have Haiti, which is not that far from the United States, and is really, I think, an obligation of the United States, helping the people of Haiti. There has been such misery and such problems there that they really need our help, our continued and sustained help.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JEFFRIES for his leadership on this issue.

On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, displacing 1.5 million people and killing more than 200,000.

Less than 2 months after the earthquake, I had the opportunity to visit Haiti and survey the damage. I stand here today with the same message my colleagues and I delivered to the Haitian people 10 years ago: The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to assist Haiti in its time of need.

Over the last decade, Congress has worked closely with the Haitian-American diaspora, the Haitian people, and the Haitian Government to support rebuilding and development efforts on the island, but Haiti still has a long way to go.

As we support efforts to reconstruct Haiti, we must learn from our mistakes over the past 10 years and devise innovative solutions to overcome the many remaining challenges.

At the same time, it is imperative that the Haitian Government address the growing and legitimate concerns about the country's deteriorating human rights situations, attacks against the press and peaceful protesters as well, and the lack of accountability for corrupt officials.

The Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency

Initiative Act will help move us toward these goals. It evaluates the effectiveness of U.S. recovery and development efforts in Haiti over the past 10 years. It also promotes new strategies to enhance the rule of law, encourage freedom of the press, combat government corruption, address the root causes of poverty, and improve developmental efforts.

It is the duty of all of us here in Congress to stand with the Haitian people. Geographically, they are so close to the United States, and there are many Haitian Americans as well.

We need to stand with the Haitian people as they fight for a more prosperous and democratic Haiti, and I urge the Haitian Government to do all it can to engage with their citizens and truly listen to their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased that the House Foreign Affairs Committee advanced this bipartisan bill unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5586, the Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act, authored by Mr. JEFFRIES and ANN WAGNER.

Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and continues to struggle under fragile public institutions. As we speak, Haiti is facing a constitutional crisis without a sitting parliament after failing to organize legislative elections in 2019. We continue to encourage the Government of Haiti to hold these elections as soon as possible.

Haiti continues to struggle with disaster recovery from the earthquake in 2010 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, as well as civil unrest, increasing gang violence, and accusations of government corruption and human rights abuses.

Haiti remains the second largest recipient of U.S. assistance in the region, including over \$128 million in foreign assistance appropriated by Congress in 2019 for economic development, democracy and rule of law, and critical support for the Haitian National Police.

This legislation prioritizes anticorruption efforts, press freedoms, and human rights, and it requires the Department of State to develop a strategy with benchmarks and indicators to measure the progress toward stated objectives for U.S. assistance.

This bill also requires an assessment of U.S. support for disaster resilience to ensure that our assistance is effectuating Haiti's recovery efforts and strengthening infrastructure against future disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New

York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the author of this important bill, the chair of our Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from New York, even though it is Brooklyn.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL from the Boogie Down Bronx, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to take a moment of personal privilege just to thank Chairman ENGEL for his friendship, his support, and his extraordinary leadership year after year on behalf of the people of New York City and the Nation as a critically important member of the House Democratic Caucus and a tremendous, legendary public servant.

Today, we vote on H.R. 5586, the Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act, a bill to upgrade the U.S. foreign assistance strategy to Haiti.

Haiti was the first nation in the Caribbean to gain independence. It is the world's first Black-led republic, home to resilient and entrepreneurial people. Haiti has tremendous potential to thrive as a free, fair, and prosperous democracy.

I am proud to represent a vibrant community of Haitian Americans in Brooklyn and Queens, including Little Haiti in Brooklyn, which is a neighboring congressional district represented by Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE.

As much of the diaspora has communicated to me, unfortunately, Haiti still faces severe challenges in its quest to achieve full prosperity for its people and the opportunity to live in a free, democratic society.

This January marked the 10-year anniversary of the catastrophic Haiti earthquake that killed and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Since 2010, Haiti has gone through additional hardships like Hurricane Matthew, fuel shortages, food insecurity, and now the coronavirus pandemic.

Many Haitians are frustrated by the corruption, poverty, and undemocratic practices on the island. Since 2018, mass demonstrations in Haiti protested the country's economic situation and the Haitian Government's apparent misappropriation of the Petrocaribe oil dollars.

Tens of thousands of protesters also demanded the resignation of the current President, who has been ruling by decree since January 2020.

H.R. 5586 directs the State Department and USAID to evaluate the effectiveness and shortcomings of U.S. foreign aid to Haiti over the past 10 years. The bill also directs these two agencies to devise new approaches to reduce poverty and promote good governance.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ELIOT ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL, Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman SIREN and Ranking Member ROONEY, Congresswoman

ANN WAGNER, and Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the aisle, as well as the organizations supporting this bipartisan bill.

The United States should always stand with our neighbor in the Western Hemisphere and the Haitian people as they fight for a self-governing, democratic, and prosperous nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Mr. JEFFRIES for authoring this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5586, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill To measure the progress of recovery and efforts to address corruption, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7703) to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7703

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act".

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$74,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative to achieve the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes described in this subsection are the following:

(1) To promote citizen safety, security, and the rule of law in the Caribbean through increased strategic engagement with the governments of beneficiary countries and with elements of local civil society, including the private sector, in such countries.

(2) To carry out the promotion of such safety, security, and the rule of law through efforts including the following:

(A) Capacity building for law enforcement and military units, including professionalization, anti-corruption and

human rights training, vetting, and community-based policing.

(B) Maritime and aerial security cooperation, including assistance to strengthen Caribbean maritime and aerial interdiction operations capability and the provision of support systems and equipment, training, and maintenance.

(C) Border and port security cooperation, including support to strengthen capacity for screening and to intercept narcotics, weapons, bulk cash, and other contraband at airports and seaports.

(D) Support for justice sector reform and strengthening of the rule of law, including capacity building for prosecutors, judges, and other justice officials, and support to increase the efficacy of criminal courts.

(E) Cybersecurity and cybercrime cooperation, including capacity-building and support for cybersecurity systems.

(F) Countering transnational criminal organizations and local gang activity, including capacity-building, equipment, and support for operations targeting the finances and illegal activities of transnational criminal networks and local gangs such as their recruitment of at-risk youth, and the provision of assistance to populations vulnerable to being victims of extortion and crime by criminal networks.

(G) Strengthening special prosecutorial offices and providing technical assistance to combat corruption, money laundering, financial crimes, extortion, and human rights crimes, and conduct asset forfeitures and criminal analysis.

(H) Strengthening the ability of the security sector to respond to and become more resilient in the face of natural disasters, including by carrying out training exercises to ensure critical infrastructure and ports are able to come back online rapidly following disasters and providing preparedness training to police and first responders.

(I) Supporting training for civilian police and appropriate security services in criminal investigations, best practices for citizen security, and the protection of human rights.

(J) Improving community and law enforcement cooperation to improve effectiveness and professionalism of police and increase mutual trust.

(K) Increasing economic opportunities for at-risk youth and vulnerable populations, including workforce development training and remedial education programs for at-risk youth.

(L) Improving juvenile justice sectors through regulatory reforms, separating youth from traditional prison systems, and improving support and services in juvenile detention centers.

(3) To prioritize efforts to combat corruption and include anti-corruption components to programs, including by—

(A) strengthening national justice systems and attorneys general and supporting independent media and investigative reporting;

(B) supporting multilateral anti-corruption mechanisms; and

(C) encouraging cooperative agreements between the Department of State, other relevant Federal departments and agencies, and the attorneys general of relevant countries to fight corruption in the Caribbean.

(4) To promote the rule of law in the Caribbean and counter malign influence from authoritarian regimes, including China and Russia, by:

(A) Monitoring security assistance from authoritarian regimes and taking steps necessary to ensure that this assistance does not undermine or jeopardize U.S. security assistance.

(B) Evaluating and, as appropriate, restricting United States involvement in investment and infrastructure projects fi-

nanced by authoritarian regimes that might obstruct or otherwise impact United States security assistance to beneficiary countries.

(C) Monitoring and restricting equipment and support from high risk vendors for telecommunications infrastructure in beneficiary countries.

(D) Countering disinformation by promoting transparency and accountability from beneficiary countries.

(E) Eliminating corruption linked to investment and infrastructure facilitated by authoritarian regimes through support for investment screening, competitive tendering and bidding processes, the implementation of investment law, and contractual transparency.

(5) To promote strategic engagement with the governments of beneficiary countries through effective branding and messaging of United States assistance and security cooperation, including by developing a public diplomacy strategy for educating citizens of beneficiary countries about United States assistance and security cooperation programs and benefits.

#### SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE DISASTER RESILIENCE.

(a) **PRIORITIZATION.**—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, prioritize efforts to increase disaster response and resilience by carrying out programs in beneficiary countries for the following purposes:

(1) Encouraging coordination between beneficiary countries and relevant Federal departments and agencies to provide expertise and information sharing.

(2) Supporting sharing of best practices on disaster resilience including constructing resilient infrastructure and rebuilding after natural disasters.

(3) Improving rapid-response mechanisms and cross-government organizational preparedness for natural disasters.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and in consultation with the President and Chief Economic Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy that incorporates specific, measurable benchmarks to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a) and to inform citizens of beneficiary countries about the extent and benefits of United States assistance to such countries. In developing such strategy, the Secretary of State shall also consult with nongovernmental organizations in beneficiary countries and in the United States.

(c) **ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator, shall annually submit to the appropriate congressional committees a written description of the progress made as of the date of such submission in meeting the benchmarks included in the strategy submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

#### SEC. 4. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan that includes a timeline and stated objectives for actions to be taken with respect to the Caribbean Basin Security