

Summit for Democracy
Suggested Commitments - Paraguay

I. Fighting Corruption

- The Executive Branch will strengthen the operational capabilities of institutions of the national Anti-Money Laundering, Countering Financing of Terrorism, and Countering Financing of Proliferation (AML/CTF/CFP) system to combat money laundering based on international trade and will promote increased inter-institutional communication and coordination to effectively carry out financial investigations.
 - The proposed legislation would create the "National Secretariat for Integrity and Transparency," which would institutionalize and codify the existence, functions and competencies of the current National Anticorruption Secretariat (SENAC), giving it more legitimacy, strength, and latitude to diagnose, design, promote, coordinate, supervise, and evaluate public transparency policies.
- The Executive Branch will strengthen the government's capacity to combat money laundering and terrorism financing through the creation of a task force against money laundering and terrorism financing that will be integrated by the Public Ministry, the Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD), the National Customs Directorate, the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) and the National Police.
 - This interagency working group will facilitate communication among stakeholders to effectively conduct investigations into Trade-Based Money Laundering (TBML) and corruption.

II. Defending Against Authoritarianism

- Paraguay, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will promote an agenda to strengthen the regulatory framework in order to consolidate institutions in accordance with international requirements.
 - Paraguay is committed to cooperate with the defense of democracy in the region in accordance with rules-based international regulations, formulating proposals to the international organizations to which it belongs.
- The Executive Branch will strengthen the civil society's capability to exercise effective oversight, fostering active transparency through the creation and improvement of open data portals, as well as tools that report on the levels of compliance with Law No. 5282/14 of Access to Public Information.
 - Civil society oversight is key to promoting the fight against corruption. Guaranteeing access to information by the government is a fundamental step for civil society to exercise

a watchdog role over government actions. Open data portals will allow civil society to have easy and real-time access to information held by public institutions and, thus, to measure the levels of transparency for better management control.

- The Executive Branch will promote the creation of an inter-institutional committee on foreign investments, which will examine and evaluate the national security implications of such transactions and would have the authority to block such investments for national security reasons.
 - It is well known that ill-intentioned actors, including authoritarian governments, use foreign investments to influence a country's economy, domestic politics and foreign policy. Currently, Paraguay does not have a comprehensive mechanism to examine the potential impact of foreign investments on national security. With the creation of this committee, the Executive Branch could address this vulnerability and better defend against malign influence.

III. Advancing Human Rights

- Paraguay, through the Office of the President of the Republic and the Social Cabinet, will strengthen the government's capacity to protect the rights of indigenous communities by fully committing to the fulfillment of the National Plan for Indigenous Peoples 2020-2030 (PNPI).
 - Executive Order No. 5897/2021 urges the agencies and institutions of the Executive Branch to implement institutional measures within the scope of their responsibilities to prioritize and facilitate the implementation of the Plan under the guidance of the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute and encourages the necessary mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the Plan's proposed actions. Implementing the PNPI 2020-2030 would provide indigenous communities a voice in government and the protections of the State to address the inequality and marginalization they face.
- The Executive Branch will strengthen the government's ability to combat child labor and forced labor by carrying out actions to enforce laws that sanction child labor exploitation; providing funds to support the programs of the Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence for the strengthening of families and the prevention of child labor exploitation.
 - The practice of *criadazgo*¹ entails the risk of child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and sexual exploitation for those involved. Some such activities are penalized in Law No. 4,788/12 "INTEGRAL AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS", however, laws are required to address child labor exploitation in its various forms.
 - The development and implementation of family strengthening policies, plans and programs and the attention to the vulnerabilities of children and adolescents through social programs,

¹ A practice in which children live and work as domestics in the homes of other families, normally in cities, in exchange for accommodation, food and a basic education.

require adequate tax revenues for the fulfillment of such purposes, which will be coordinated through the competent agencies.

- It is important to strengthen the National Commission for Fundamental Rights at Work and Prevention of Forced Labor (CONTRAFOR), which will propose strategies, lines of effort, indicators, and goals aimed at identifying victims of forced labor and improving the state's response through coordinated actions based on five strategic axes: institutional strengthening, prevention, detection, victim assistance, and sanctions.