



## U.S. EMBASSY KINSHASA.CONGO

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### **U.S. Department of Treasury Under Secretary Brian Nelson Deepens Cooperation to Combat Corruption**

U.S. Department of Treasury Under Secretary Brian Nelson visited Kinshasa March 16-18 to discuss expanded areas of cooperation with President Felix Tshisekedi and senior government officials, in keeping with the Biden administration's commitment to combat corruption and illicit finance and discuss how sound public financial management can improve economic stability and growth in the Democratic Republic of Congo. His visit follows President Biden's and President Tshisekedi's exchanges in Rome at the G-20 and Glasgow at COP-26 and high-level visits from the White House National Security Council, Department of Labor, and Department of State to deepen our U.S.-DRC Privileged Partnership for Peace, Prosperity, and Preservation of the Environment.

The U.S. Treasury is leading the Biden Administration's priority initiative to combat corruption at home and abroad. In meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Central Bank Governor, and the Chief of Staff, Under Secretary Nelson commended President Tshisekedi and the Congolese government's commitment to combatting corruption, particularly in the mining sector, and emphasized the need for systemic Anti Money Laundering/Combatting the Financing of Terrorism reforms. The United States supports continued reforms in the critical minerals sector, concretely demonstrated by Treasury's designation of Alain Goetz on March 17th, to ensure that the royalties the DRC is due are not diverted by corrupt actors, so that mining can serve as an engine for economic growth for all Congolese.

The Goetz designation was taken to support the DRC's mining sector reform efforts and disrupt armed groups financing themselves through conflict gold smuggling, the United States

designated Alain Goetz and the African Gold Refinery in Uganda, and a Goetz-controlled network of companies in Belgium, Seychelles and the UAE.

U/S Nelson's visit reflects the United States' commitment to partnering with the DRC to combat corruption, promote human rights and create a thriving and transparent financial sector that attracts foreign investment. The United States appreciates President Tshisekedi's vocal stance against corruption, and we strongly encourage the DRC to continue its anti-corruption efforts. U/S Nelson heard from the Congolese authorities, and he agrees, that curbing corruption is key for the DRC to realize its vast potential. On the link between corruption and terrorist financing, the U.S. is monitoring ISIS's ability to raise, store, and move funding in and from the DRC and the region. We want to work closely with the DRC government to combat ISIS-DRC and make DRC a hostile environment for ISIS. That includes effectively tracking and disrupting its finances.

In meetings with the Finance Minister, Central Bank Governor, CENAREF, and other financial sector representatives, Nelson discussed strengthening the DRC's legal framework through the adoption of a strengthened draft AML/CFT law to close key gaps and loopholes, to promote financial transparency, to expose corrupt actors and make it more difficult for them to misuse the financial system, combat high-value corruption, and prevent the diversion of the DRC's revenue and resources. Combatting corruption, money laundering, and terrorism financing helps DRC's economy and promotes peace and security by ensuring that funds go to legitimate purposes like development, infrastructure, health, and security for the Congolese people.

In meetings with the banking community and civil society, Under Secretary Nelson noted that the United States supports the DRC's efforts to strengthen compliance programs and protections against illicit finance.