

# Press Releases: United States Calls for a Lawful, Transparent Process To Resolve Electoral Disputes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 16, 2019

---

The United States stands with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at this historic moment. It is the people who should determine their country's future through a fully transparent and constitutional process. The United States recognizes the legitimate concerns over the transparency of the electoral process.

As the tabulation process continues, we urge the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) to ensure that the final declared results reflect the will of the Congolese people, as expressed through the ballot box on December 30, 2018.

The United States supports the lawful right of candidates to file a legal challenge to the election results and urges the Constitutional Court to execute a lawful, fair, and transparent process for resolving electoral disputes. The United States will hold accountable those who perpetrate election violence or undermine democratic processes. Maintaining peace in the DRC depends on a fully transparent and legal process to resolve any concerns regarding election results.

*The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.*

---

# Press Releases: United States Urges a Free and Fair Electoral Process Ahead of Moldova's February Parliamentary Elections

Press Statement  
Robert Palladino

Deputy Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 16, 2019

---

The United States urges the Moldovan authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure a free and fair electoral process and a transparent outcome that respects the will of Moldovan voters. We encourage the government to implement OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) prior recommendations for Moldova that remain outstanding. Local and national authorities should ensure that candidates are able to register to participate in the elections and carry out their campaigns without fear of harassment or physical harm. Media outlets should provide equal access to all candidates and approach their coverage in a fair, balanced, and impartial manner, consistent with Moldova's media laws. Ultimately, we believe, the goal of all the parties and candidates is the same, ensuring a prosperous and democratic future for Moldova and its citizens. The United States will continue to help the Moldovan people achieve this goal.

*The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.*

---

# Press Releases: U.S. Commitment to Religious Freedom

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
January 16, 2019

---

Today the United States honors National Religious Freedom Day. On this day in 1786, the Virginia General Assembly adopted Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. It begins with a groundbreaking statement: "Almighty God hath created the mind free." This Statute goes on to guarantee freedom of religion to people of all faiths and would inspire the religious freedom protections in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and which in turn inspired the protections enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Every person around the world should be free to believe, or not believe, in accordance with their conscience. Governments have a duty to protect religious freedom, and promoting this freedom is a key foreign policy priority for the Trump Administration.

As part of our commitment to this freedom, the United States will host the second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom July 16-18, 2019, in Washington, D.C. This Ministerial will again gather hundreds of government representatives, religious leaders, survivors of religious persecution, and members of civil society to build on the actions that began with the inaugural Ministerial last year. I look forward to hosting this important meeting and to strengthening the coalition of nations and organizations committed to defending this universal right.

*The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department.  
External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an*

*endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.*

---

## **Press Releases: Iran's Firing of Space Launch Vehicle Defies International Community**

Press Statement  
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
January 15, 2019

---

In continued defiance of the international community and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the Iranian regime fired off a space launch vehicle today. Such vehicles incorporate technologies that are virtually identical and interchangeable with those used in ballistic missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles. Today's launch furthers Iran's ability to eventually build such a weapon.

We have been clear that we will not stand for Iran's flagrant disregard for international norms. The United States is working with our allies and partners to counter the entire range of the Islamic Republic's threats, including its missile program, which threatens Europe and the Middle East.

*The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.*

---

# Press Releases: Vice President Pence To Deliver Remarks to Global Chiefs of Mission Conference

Notice to the Press  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
January 15, 2019

---

Vice President Mike Pence will deliver remarks to the Global Chiefs of Mission Conference “One Team, One Mission, One Future” at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday, January 16, 2019 in the Dean Acheson Auditorium of the Department of State.

*This event is open press coverage. Due to security screening requirements, video cameras must preset at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Entrance, and equipment must remain overnight. On Wednesday, January 16, final access time for writers and stills is 9:30 a.m. from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance.*

*Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued photo media credential (e.g., Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign Press Center), or (2) an official photo identification card issued by their news organization, or (3) a letter from their employer on official letterhead verifying their current employment as a journalist. Additionally, they must present an official government photo identification card (i.e., U.S. driver’s license or passport).*

For further information, please contact the Office of Press Relations at (202) 647-2492 or [PAPressDuty@state.gov](mailto:PAPressDuty@state.gov).

*The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.*