## <u>Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's</u> <u>Meeting With President Abdo Benitez of</u> <u>Paraguay</u>

Readout Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC April 13, 2019

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus:

Today, Secretary Michael R. Pompeo met with President Mario Abdo Benitez in Asunción, Paraguay. They affirmed a commitment to deepen the vibrant partnership between the United States and Paraguay, rooted in our shared democratic values. Secretary Pompeo commended Paraguay for its leadership in the region to promote the restoration of democracy in Venezuela. The leaders highlighted the importance of working together to promote security, prosperity, and democracy across the region, including combatting transnational crime and terrorist financing in the Tri-Border Area. Secretary Pompeo also recognized Paraguay's strong commitment to increase transparency and fight corruption. The Secretary and President Abdo Benitez discussed Paraguay's continued efforts to strengthen its relationship with Taiwan, and the importance of maintaining the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, including diplomatic recognition.

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