U.S.- ALBANIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON
COUNTERING FOREIGN STATE INFORMATION MANIPULATION

The U.S. Department of State, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania (together, "the Participants") have reached the following understandings:

I. Purpose

Foreign information manipulation poses a threat to all democratic nations guided by shared values and warrants enhanced international cooperation across an array of activities. The United States and Albania are both committed to collaboration aimed at reducing the impact of foreign information manipulation and to building societally and institutionally resilient information ecosystems.

As two NATO Allies and building upon the Joint Declaration of the Strategic Partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of Albania signed on April 20, 2015 and the strong and growing partnership across a number of areas and priorities, including security, with a specific focus on cyber-security, the Participants have developed a framework of cooperation in countering foreign information manipulation ("Framework").

II. Framework for Countering Foreign Information Manipulation

The Participants affirm the following framework for countering foreign information manipulation:

1. Effectively addressing foreign information manipulation depends upon countries going beyond "monitor-and-report" approaches, to include developing and implementing strategies to counter this threat.

2. Marshalling and administering a national-level approach to countering foreign information manipulation benefits from coordinated interagency structures.

3. Effectively countering foreign information manipulation depends upon having the technical means and human capacity needed to maintain awareness of the threat.

4. Civil society, independent media, and academia play essential roles in supporting and informing government-led initiatives to counter foreign information manipulation.

5. Multilateral organizations that are leveraging international cooperation to counter and build resilience against foreign information manipulation are indispensable to alleviating information and capacity gaps across partner nations.

III. Scope

To deepen the Participants' partnership on these challenges, the Participants intend to establish a bilateral consultation on countering foreign information manipulation, to set the direction for future activity. The U.S. Department of State, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, and the Office of the Prime Minister of Albania, on behalf of the Government of Albania, are expected to jointly lead this consultation.

These consultations may include, but are not limited to, strategic communication capacity building through the European Digital Diplomacy Exchange (EDDE), analytic exchanges, consultations to establish national strategies, and increase engagement from U.S. government leadership in support of Framework activities.

IV. Implementation, Status, and Discontinuation

This MoU becomes operative upon signature by both Participants. It may be revised by mutual decision of both Participants in writing. Either Participant may discontinue this MoU through notification in writing to the other Participant. This MoU does not give rise to any rights or obligations under international or domestic law. Any cooperation hereunder is subject to the availability of funds for such purposes.

The Participants intend to exchange information under this MoU in accordance with their respective laws, regulations, and policies. The Participants intend that any information exchanged under this MoU would be provided with an expectation of confidentiality and should not be disclosed outside of the

receiving Participant's government, save where disclosure is otherwise required by the receiving Participant's domestic law.

Signed at Tirana, Albania on February 15, 2024 in the English language.

FOR THE GOV. OF UNITED STATES

Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State

FOR THE GOV. OF ALBANIA

Igli Hasani, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs