

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2615

AN ACT

To support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement
 4 Act”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Report on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.
- Sec. 3. Actions to promote inclusive economic growth and development in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 4. Actions to combat corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 5. Actions to strengthen democratic institutions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 6. Actions to improve security conditions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations for assistance to Central America.
- Sec. 8. Conditions on assistance to the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 9. Enhancing engagement with the Government of Mexico on the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 10. Targeting assistance to address migration from communities in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 11. Targeted sanctions to fight corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 12. Requirement to provide advance notification to Congress of security assistance to Northern Triangle countries.
- Sec. 13. Definitions.
- Sec. 14. Determination of budgetary effects.

7 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION FROM THE**
 8 **NORTHERN TRIANGLE TO THE UNITED**
 9 **STATES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
 12 in coordination with the Administrator of the United
 13 States Agency for International Development and the
 14 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to
 15 the appropriate congressional committees a report on the
 16 drivers of migration from each of the Northern Triangle

1 countries and the progress United States foreign assist-
2 ance is making in addressing such drivers.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
4 section (a) shall include the following elements for each
5 of the Northern Triangle countries, with data
6 disaggregated by municipality, age, and gender, as nec-
7 essary:

8 (1) Information and data on all criminal activi-
9 ties, including drug trafficking, extortion, trafficking
10 in persons, and gender-based violence, with par-
11 ticular emphasis on such activities carried out by
12 criminal gangs and transnational criminal organiza-
13 tions such as MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang.

14 (2) Data on the extent to which criminal activi-
15 ties referred to in paragraph (1) are reported to gov-
16 ernment authorities and the number of perpetrators
17 investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted,
18 versus the number of known perpetrators who are
19 not so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or con-
20 victed.

21 (3) Data on children and young adults forcibly
22 recruited for criminal activities referred to in para-
23 graph (1), including the extent to which government
24 authorities received reports of forced recruitment.

1 (4) Data on internal displacement due to crimi-
2 nal activities referred to in paragraph (1), and serv-
3 ices, including temporary shelters, provided to those
4 displaced by violence.

5 (5) Data on gender-based violence by region
6 and municipality and descriptions of gender-based
7 violence and domestic violence trends, including gen-
8 der-based violence against indigenous women, and
9 correlation to outward migration.

10 (6) Descriptions of the obstacles (including ca-
11 pacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to
12 resolving gender-based violence cases and deterring
13 violence against women and children.

14 (7) Information on the availability of trauma-
15 informed legal and social services, including in shel-
16 ters, for victims of gender-based violence.

17 (8) Data on the number of police officers, pros-
18 ecutors, court personnel, and specialized units
19 trained in violence against women and children, in-
20 cluding data on the number of female police officers
21 in each of the Northern Triangle countries.

22 (9) Data on reported cases of abuse, including
23 extrajudicial executions, torture, forced disappear-
24 ance, and arbitrary detention, allegedly committed
25 by members of the security forces, and collusion be-

1 tween members of such security forces and gangs
2 and other criminal groups, including transnational
3 criminal organizations, and the number of perpetra-
4 tors investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or con-
5 victed, versus the number of known perpetrators not
6 so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or con-
7 victed.

8 (10) Descriptions of the strategies being imple-
9 mented to guarantee the rights of indigenous and
10 rural communities.

11 (11) Descriptions of the strategies being imple-
12 mented to address forced recruitment of children
13 and youth by gangs, transnational criminal organiza-
14 tions, and other criminal groups, and how such
15 strategies are complemented by United States ef-
16 forts.

17 (12) Descriptions of the strategies being imple-
18 mented by the governments of each of the Northern
19 Triangle countries to address corruption and orga-
20 nized crime and how such strategies are com-
21 plemented by United States efforts.

22 (13) Data on the effectiveness of anti-corrup-
23 tion strategies, including through bilateral and mul-
24 tilateral anti-corruption assistance.

1 (14) An assessment of the extent of corruption,
2 including regarding narcotics trafficking and illicit
3 campaign financing, a description of steps taken and
4 to be taken to impose sanctions pursuant to the
5 Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act
6 (22 U.S.C. 2656 note), and a list of senior officials
7 who are known or credibly alleged to have committed
8 or facilitated such corruption, not including individ-
9 uals who have already been sentenced to crimes in
10 criminal courts.

11 (15) Descriptions of operating conditions for
12 civil society organizations and independent media in
13 each of the Northern Triangle countries, and data
14 on harassment and attacks on civil society and inde-
15 pendent media from political and criminal actors.

16 (16) An assessment of information sharing re-
17 garding known or suspected terrorists and other in-
18 dividuals and groups that pose a potential threat to
19 United States national security that are crossing
20 through or residing in the Northern Triangle.

21 (17) Descriptions of the obstacles (including ca-
22 pacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to
23 resolving criminal cases and corruption and deter-
24 ring violence.

1 (18) Data on the capacity of child welfare sys-
2 tems in each Northern Triangle country to protect
3 unaccompanied children, including runaways and
4 refugee returnees.

5 (19) Data on the governance capacity of North-
6 ern Triangle country governments at the local and
7 national level, including ability to deliver basic cit-
8 izen services, including tax collection and citizen se-
9 curity.

10 (20) Data on the rates of extortion, the impact
11 of extortion on local businesses and economies, and
12 the number of extortion cases investigated, pros-
13 ecuted, or convicted.

14 (21) Data on the extent to which the Northern
15 Triangle governments are promoting economic
16 growth and educational opportunities, improving
17 health outcomes, and addressing the underlying
18 causes of poverty and inequality through public poli-
19 cies.

20 (22) Data on the activities of China and Rus-
21 sia, an assessment of the threat of such activities to
22 United States interests, and the impact of such ac-
23 tivities on irregular migration.

24 (23) An analysis of the manner and extent to
25 which assistance made available to the Northern Tri-

1 angle countries in fiscal years 2015 through 2017
2 were expended, particularly including—

3 (A) the extent to which funds made avail-
4 able to private and nongovernmental entities to
5 provide such assistance were subsequently ex-
6 pended on activities conducted within such
7 countries; and

8 (B) the manner in which such funds were
9 expended on activities in other countries.

10 (24) Data on the geographic regions where
11 highest incidence of violence occurs against women
12 and children.

13 (25) An evaluation of the extent to which
14 women and children who are victims of violence have
15 access to protection and justice.

16 (26) An evaluation of the capacity of the justice
17 system in each Northern Triangle country to re-
18 spond to reports of femicide, sexual assault, domes-
19 tic violence, trafficking, or child abuse and neglect,
20 and to hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

21 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required
22 under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available on
23 the website of the Department of State.

1 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC**
2 **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH-**
3 **ERN TRIANGLE.**

4 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The
5 Secretary of State shall prioritize economic development
6 in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the fol-
7 lowing initiatives:

8 (1) Supporting market-based solutions to elimi-
9 nate constraints to inclusive economic growth, in-
10 cluding through support for increased digital
11 connectivity and the use of financial technology, and
12 private sector and civil society-led efforts to create
13 jobs and foster economic prosperity.

14 (2) Addressing underlying causes of poverty
15 and inequality, including by improving nutrition and
16 food security, providing health resources and access
17 to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter, and
18 improving livelihoods.

19 (3) Responding to immediate humanitarian
20 needs by increasing humanitarian assistance, includ-
21 ing through access to clean water, sanitation, hy-
22 giene, and shelter, improving livelihoods, and by pro-
23 viding health resources and improving nutrition and
24 food security.

1 (4) Supporting conservation and community re-
2 silience and strengthening community preparedness
3 for natural disasters and other external shocks.

4 (5) Identifying, as appropriate, a role for the
5 United States International Development Finance
6 Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation
7 (MCC), the United States Agency for International
8 Development, and the United States private sector
9 in supporting efforts to increase private sector in-
10 vestment and strengthen economic prosperity.

11 (6) Expanding comprehensive reintegration
12 mechanisms for repatriated individuals once re-
13 turned to their countries of origin and supporting ef-
14 forts by the private sector to hire and train eligible
15 returnees.

16 (7) Establishing monitoring and verification
17 services to determine the well-being of repatriated
18 children in order to determine if United States pro-
19 tection and screening functioned effectively in identi-
20 fying persecuted and trafficked children.

21 (8) Supporting efforts to increase domestic re-
22 source mobilization, including through strengthening
23 of tax collection and enforcement and legal arbitra-
24 tion mechanisms.

25 (b) STRATEGY.—

1 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
4 the United States Agency for International Develop-
5 ment, the President and Chief Executive Officer of
6 the Inter-American Foundation, the Director of the
7 United States Trade and Development Agency, the
8 Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-
9 national Development Finance Corporation, and the
10 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall sub-
11 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a 5-
12 year strategy to support inclusive economic growth
13 and development in the Northern Triangle countries
14 by carrying out the initiatives described in sub-
15 section (a).

16 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-
17 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
18 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-
19 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the
20 United States.

21 (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required
22 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-
23 marks to track the strategy’s progress in curbing ir-
24 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the
25 United States.

1 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-
2 quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-
3 plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-
4 ern Triangle countries about United States assist-
5 ance and its benefits to them, and informing such
6 citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the
7 United States.

8 (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later
9 than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-
10 quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter
11 for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the
12 appropriate congressional committees with a written
13 description of progress made in meeting the bench-
14 marks established in the strategy.

15 (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-
16 quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly
17 available on the website of the Department of State.

18 (c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHING AN INVESTMENT
19 FUND FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES AND
20 SOUTHERN MEXICO.—Not later than 180 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Of-
22 ficer of the United States International Development Fi-
23 nance Corporation shall submit to the appropriate con-
24 gressional committees a detailed report assessing the fea-
25 sibility, costs, and benefits of the Corporation establishing

1 an investment fund to promote economic and social devel-
2 opment in the Northern Triangle countries and southern
3 Mexico.

4 **SEC. 4. ACTIONS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN THE NORTH-**
5 **ERN TRIANGLE.**

6 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The
7 Secretary of State shall prioritize efforts to combat cor-
8 ruption in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out
9 the following initiatives:

10 (1) Supporting anti-corruption efforts, includ-
11 ing by strengthening national justice systems and at-
12 torneys general, providing technical assistance to fi-
13 nancial institutions to identify money laundering and
14 other financial crimes, breaking up financial hold-
15 ings of organized criminal syndicates, including ille-
16 gally acquired lands and proceeds from illegal activi-
17 ties, and supporting independent media and inves-
18 tigative reporting.

19 (2) Supporting anti-corruption efforts through
20 bilateral assistance and complementary support
21 through multilateral anti-corruption mechanisms
22 when necessary.

23 (3) Encouraging cooperation agreements be-
24 tween the Department of State and relevant United

1 States Government agencies and attorneys general
2 to fight corruption.

3 (4) Supporting efforts to strengthen special
4 prosecutorial offices and financial institutions to
5 combat corruption, money laundering, financial
6 crimes, extortion, human rights crimes, asset for-
7 feiture, and criminal analysis.

8 (5) Supporting initiatives to advance judicial in-
9 tegrity and improve security for members of the ju-
10 dicial sector.

11 (6) Supporting transparent, merit-based selec-
12 tion processes for prosecutors and judges and the
13 development of professional and merit-based civil
14 services.

15 (7) Supporting the establishment or strength-
16 ening of methods, procedures, and expectations for
17 internal and external control mechanisms for the se-
18 curity and police services and judiciary.

19 (8) Supporting the adoption of appropriate
20 technologies to combat corruption in public finance.

21 (b) STRATEGY.—

22 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
25 the United States Agency for International Develop-

1 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-
2 cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
3 committees a 5-year strategy to combat corruption
4 in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out
5 the initiatives described in subsection (a).

6 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-
7 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
8 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-
9 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the
10 United States.

11 (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required
12 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-
13 marks to track the strategy's progress in curbing ir-
14 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the
15 United States.

16 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-
17 quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-
18 plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-
19 ern Triangle countries about United States assist-
20 ance and its benefits to them, and informing such
21 citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the
22 United States.

23 (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later
24 than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-
25 quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter

1 for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the
2 appropriate congressional committees with a written
3 description of progress made in meeting the bench-
4 marks established in the strategy.

5 (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-
6 quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly
7 available on the website of the Department of State.

8 (c) DESIGNATION OF A SENIOR RULE OF LAW ADVI-
9 SOR FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE IN THE BUREAU OF
10 WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS.—The Secretary of
11 State shall designate in the Bureau of Western Hemi-
12 sphere Affairs of the Department of State a Senior Rule
13 of Law Advisor for the Northern Triangle who shall lead
14 diplomatic engagement with the Northern Triangle coun-
15 tries in support of democratic governance, anti-corruption
16 efforts, and the rule of law in all aspects of United States
17 policy towards the countries of the Northern Triangle, in-
18 cluding carrying out the initiatives described in subsection
19 (a) and developing the strategy required under subsection
20 (b). The individual designated in accordance with this sub-
21 section shall be a Department of State employee in the
22 Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

1 **SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITU-**
2 **TIONS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**

3 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The
4 Secretary of State shall prioritize strengthening demo-
5 cratic institutions, good governance, human rights, and
6 the rule of law in the Northern Triangle countries by car-
7 rying out the following initiatives:

8 (1) Providing support to strengthen government
9 institutions and actors at the local and national lev-
10 els to provide services and respond to citizen needs
11 through transparent, inclusive, and democratic proc-
12 esses.

13 (2) Supporting efforts to strengthen access to
14 information laws and reform laws that currently
15 limit access to information.

16 (3) Financing efforts to build the capacity of
17 independent media with a specific focus on profes-
18 sional investigative journalism.

19 (4) Ensuring that threats and attacks on jour-
20 nalists and human rights defenders are fully inves-
21 tigated and perpetrators are held accountable.

22 (5) Developing the capacity of civil society to
23 conduct oversight and accountability mechanisms at
24 the national and local levels.

25 (6) Training political actors committed to
26 democratic principles.

1 (7) Strengthening electoral institutions and
2 processes to ensure free, fair, and transparent elec-
3 tions.

4 (8) Advancing conservation principles and the
5 rule of law to address multiple factors, including the
6 impacts of illegal cattle ranching and smuggling as
7 drivers of deforestation.

8 (b) STRATEGY.—

9 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
12 the United States Agency for International Develop-
13 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-
14 cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
15 committees a strategy to support democratic govern-
16 ance in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying
17 out the initiatives described in subsection (a).

18 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-
19 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
20 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-
21 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the
22 United States.

23 (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required
24 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-
25 marks to track the strategy's progress in curbing ir-

1 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the
2 United States.

3 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-
4 quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-
5 plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-
6 ern Triangle countries about United States assist-
7 ance and its benefits to them, and informing such
8 citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the
9 United States.

10 (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later
11 than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-
12 quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter
13 for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the
14 appropriate congressional committees with a written
15 description of progress made in meeting the bench-
16 marks established in the strategy.

17 (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-
18 quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly
19 available on the website of the Department of State.

20 **SEC. 6. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN**
21 **THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**

22 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The
23 Secretary of State shall prioritize security in the Northern
24 Triangle countries by carrying out the following initiatives:

1 (1) Implementing the Central America Regional
2 Security Initiative of the Department of State.

3 (2) Continuing the vetting and
4 professionalization of security services, including the
5 civilian police and military units.

6 (3) Supporting efforts to combat the illicit ac-
7 tivities of criminal gangs and transnational criminal
8 organizations, including MS-13 and the 18th Street
9 Gang, through support to fully vetted elements of at-
10 torneys general offices, appropriate government in-
11 stitutions, and security services.

12 (4) Supporting training for fully vetted civilian
13 police and appropriate security services in criminal
14 investigations, best practices for citizen security, and
15 human rights.

16 (5) Providing capacity-building to relevant secu-
17 rity services and attorneys general to support coun-
18 ternarcotics efforts and combat human trafficking,
19 forceful recruitment of children and youth by gangs,
20 gender-based violence, and other illicit activities, in-
21 cluding trafficking of wildlife, and natural resources.

22 (6) Encouraging collaboration with regional and
23 international partners in implementing security as-
24 sistance, including by supporting cross-border infor-

1 mation sharing on gangs and transnational criminal
2 organizations.

3 (7) Providing equipment, technology, tools, and
4 training to security services to assist in border and
5 port inspections.

6 (8) Providing equipment, technology, tools, and
7 training to assist security services in counter-
8 narcotics and other efforts to combat illicit activities.

9 (9) Continuing information sharing regarding
10 known or suspected terrorists and other individuals
11 and entities that pose a potential threat to United
12 States national security that are crossing through or
13 residing in the Northern Triangle.

14 (10) Supporting information sharing on gangs
15 and transnational criminal organizations between
16 relevant Federal, State, and local law enforcement
17 and the governments of the Northern Triangle coun-
18 tries.

19 (11) Considering the use of assets and re-
20 sources of United States State and local government
21 entities, as appropriate, to support the activities de-
22 scribed in this subsection.

23 (12) Providing thorough end-use monitoring of
24 equipment, technology, tools, and training provided
25 pursuant to this subsection.

1 (b) STRATEGY.—

2 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
5 the United States Agency for International Develop-
6 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-
7 cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
8 committees a 5-year strategy to prioritize the im-
9 provement of security in the Northern Triangle
10 countries by carrying out the initiatives described in
11 subsection (a).

12 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-
13 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
14 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-
15 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the
16 United States.

17 (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required
18 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-
19 marks to track the strategy’s progress in curbing ir-
20 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the
21 United States.

22 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-
23 quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-
24 plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-
25 ern Triangle countries about United States assist-

1 ance and its benefits to them, and informing such
2 citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the
3 United States.

4 (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later
5 than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-
6 quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter
7 for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the
8 appropriate congressional committees with a written
9 description of progress made in meeting the bench-
10 marks established in the strategy.

11 (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-
12 quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly
13 available on the website of the Department of State.

14 (c) WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION COM-
15 PACTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consulta-
17 tion with the Secretary of State, the Administrator
18 of the United States Agency for International Devel-
19 opment, and the heads of other relevant Federal de-
20 partments or agencies, is authorized to enter into bi-
21 lateral agreements with one or more of the Govern-
22 ments of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to
23 provide United States assistance for the purposes
24 of—

1 (A) strengthening the capacity of the jus-
2 tice systems in such countries to protect women
3 and children fleeing domestic, gang, or drug vi-
4 olence and to serve victims of domestic violence,
5 sexual assault, trafficking, or child abuse or ne-
6 glect, including by strengthening the capacity of
7 such systems to hold perpetrators accountable;
8 and

9 (B) creating, securing, and sustaining safe
10 communities and schools in such countries, by
11 building on current approaches to prevent and
12 deter violence against women and children in
13 such communities or schools.

14 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement under the
15 authority provided by paragraph (1)—

16 (A) shall establish a 3- to 6-year plan to
17 achieve the objectives described in subpara-
18 graphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph;

19 (B) shall include measurable goals and in-
20 dicators with respect to such objectives;

21 (C) may not provide for any United States
22 assistance to be made available directly to any
23 of the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala,
24 or Honduras; and

(D) may be suspended or terminated with respect to a country or an entity receiving assistance pursuant to the agreement, if the Secretary of State determines that such country or entity has failed to make sufficient progress towards the goals of the Compact.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President \$577,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to carry out the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America in accordance with subsection (b). Funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section shall be used only for the purposes set forth in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available for assistance to Central American countries to implement the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, including efforts to carry out sections 3, 4, 5, and 6.

(2) EFFECTIVE TARGETING OF ASSISTANCE.—

The Secretary of State shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, assistance provided to Central

1 American countries to carry out this Act is obligated
2 and expended on projects, programs, or activities
3 within such countries, in order to better support in-
4 clusive economic growth and development, combat
5 corruption, strengthen democratic institutions, and
6 improve security conditions in such countries.

7 (c) INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION.—Not less than
8 \$10,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated
9 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to the
10 Inter-American Foundation to address the root causes of
11 migration from Central America.

12 (d) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—Not less than
13 \$490,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated
14 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available for pro-
15 gramming in the Northern Triangle counties.

16 (e) WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION COM-
17 PACTS.—Not less than \$20,000,000 of the funds author-
18 ized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall
19 be made available to provide assistance pursuant to agree-
20 ments authorized by section 6(c).

21 **SEC. 8. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE NORTHERN**
22 **TRIANGLE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds authorized to be ap-
24 propriated to the President by this Act that are made
25 available for assistance for each of the central govern-

1 ments of the Northern Triangle countries, 50 percent of
2 such funds for each such central government may only be
3 obligated with respect to each such country after the Sec-
4 retary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate
5 congressional committees that such central government is
6 meeting the following conditions:

7 (1) Informing its citizens of the dangers of the
8 journey to the southwest border of the United
9 States.

10 (2) Combating all human smuggling and traf-
11 ficking entities.

12 (3) Countering the trafficking of illicit drugs,
13 firearms, wildlife, natural resources, and other con-
14 traband.

15 (4) Combating corruption, including inves-
16 tigating and prosecuting current and former govern-
17 ment officials credibly alleged to be corrupt.

18 (5) Implementing reforms, policies, and pro-
19 grams to increase transparency and strengthen pub-
20 lic institutions and the rule of law.

21 (6) Countering the activities of criminal gangs,
22 drug traffickers, and transnational criminal organi-
23 zations.

24 (7) Ensuring that human rights are respected
25 by national security forces.

1 (8) Investigating and prosecuting in the civilian
2 justice system government personnel who are
3 credibly alleged to have violated human rights.

4 (9) Cooperating with commissions against cor-
5 ruption and impunity and with regional human
6 rights entities.

7 (10) Supporting programs to reduce poverty,
8 expand education and vocational training for at-risk
9 youth, create jobs, and promote equitable economic
10 growth, particularly in areas contributing to large
11 numbers of migrants.

12 (11) Creating a professional, accountable civil-
13 ian police force and ending the role of the military
14 in internal policing.

15 (12) Protecting the right of political opposition
16 parties and other members of civil society to operate
17 without interference.

18 (13) Implementing tax reforms, ensuring prop-
19 erty rights, and supporting increased private invest-
20 ment in the region.

21 (14) Resolving commercial disputes.

22 (b) REPROGRAMMING.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds withheld pursuant to
24 the limitation described in subsection (a) shall be
25 made available for programs in the Northern Tri-

1 angle that do not directly support the central gov-
2 ernments of such countries.

3 (2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation described in
4 subsection (a) does not apply to funds authorized to
5 be appropriated by this Act for humanitarian assist-
6 ance or global food security programs.

7 **SEC. 9. ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERN-**
8 **MENT OF MEXICO ON THE NORTHERN TRI-**
9 **ANGLE.**

10 (a) ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERN-
11 MENT OF MEXICO ON THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The
12 Secretary of State shall collaborate with the Government
13 of Mexico to—

14 (1) enhance development, particularly in col-
15 laboration with the Administrator of the United
16 States Agency for International Development, the
17 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-
18 American Foundation, the Chief Executive Officer of
19 the United States International Development Fi-
20 nance Corporation, and the heads of other relevant
21 Federal agencies, in southern Mexico; and

22 (2) strengthen security cooperation at Mexico's
23 shared border with Guatemala and Belize.

24 (b) STRATEGY.—

1 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
 2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 3 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
 4 committees a strategy to carry out the collaboration
 5 described in subsection (a).

6 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy
 7 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of
 8 State shall consult with nongovernmental organizations
 9 in Mexico, Belize, the Northern Triangle countries,
 10 and the United States.

11 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy required
 12 under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly
 13 available on the website of the Department of State.

14 **SEC. 10. TARGETING ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS MIGRATION**
 15 **FROM COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN TRI-**
 16 **ANGLE.**

17 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
 18 of this Act and annually thereafter for each of the three
 19 succeeding years, the Comptroller General of the United
 20 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
 21 mittees a report that contains the following:

22 (1) Raw data from Federal agencies on the
 23 number of migrants coming to the United States
 24 from each community or geographic area in the
 25 Northern Triangle countries, with a specific focus on

1 communities targeted by United States foreign as-
2 sistance.

3 (2) An assessment of whether United States
4 foreign assistance to the Northern Triangle coun-
5 tries is effectively reaching the communities from
6 which individuals are migrating.

7 (3) An assessment of the extent to which
8 United States foreign assistance is mitigating North-
9 ern Triangle migration to the United States, includ-
10 ing a breakdown of effectiveness by project and im-
11 plementer.

12 (4) An assessment of the extent to which the
13 Department of State and the United States Agency
14 for International Development are adjusting foreign
15 assistance programming in the Northern Triangle
16 countries as migration patterns shift.

17 (5) An assessment of how the Department of
18 State, the United States Agency for International
19 Development, and other implementers of United
20 States foreign assistance in the Northern Triangle
21 are measuring the impact of programs on migration
22 trends.

23 (6) An assessment of how the Department of
24 State, the United States Agency for International
25 Development, and other implementers of United

1 States foreign assistance in the Northern Triangle
 2 are implementing a public diplomacy strategy that is
 3 widely informing local citizens about United States
 4 Government assistance and the dangers of illegal mi-
 5 gration to the United States, including an assess-
 6 ment of the effectiveness of such strategy on curbing
 7 such illegal migration.

8 (7) An assessment of the extent to which the
 9 governments of the Northern Triangle countries are
 10 addressing drivers of migration, including efforts to
 11 increase economic prosperity, citizen security, anti-
 12 corruption efforts, democratic principles, and rule of
 13 law.

14 (8) An assessment of how the Northern Tri-
 15 angle countries are educating their citizens about
 16 the dangers of illegal migration to the United States
 17 and the effectiveness of such educational efforts on
 18 curbing such illegal migration.

19 **SEC. 11. TARGETED SANCTIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN**
 20 **THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 22 gress that—

23 (1) corruption in the Northern Triangle coun-
 24 tries by private citizens and select officials in local,
 25 regional, and federal governments significantly dam-

1 ages the economies of such countries and deprives
2 citizens of opportunities;

3 (2) corruption in the Northern Triangle is fa-
4 cilitated and carried out not only by private citizens
5 and select officials from those countries but also in
6 many instances by individuals from third countries;
7 and

8 (3) imposing targeted sanctions on individuals
9 from throughout the world and particularly in the
10 Western Hemisphere who are engaged in acts of sig-
11 nificant corruption that impact the Northern Tri-
12 angle countries will benefit the citizens and govern-
13 ments of such countries.

14 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall
15 impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with re-
16 spect to a foreign person who the President determines
17 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act to have
18 knowingly engaged in significant corruption in a Northern
19 Triangle country, including the following:

20 (1) Corruption related to government contracts.

21 (2) Bribery and extortion.

22 (3) The facilitation or transfer of the proceeds
23 of corruption, including through money laundering.

24 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in
2 this subsection are the following:

3 (A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The blocking, in
4 accordance with the International Emergency
5 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.),
6 of all transactions in all property and interests
7 in property of a foreign person if such property
8 and interests in property are in the United
9 States, come within the United States, or are or
10 come within the possession or control of a
11 United States person.

12 (B) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMIS-
13 SION TO THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of
14 a foreign person who is an individual, such for-
15 eign person is—

16 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

17 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
18 documentation to enter the United States;
19 and

20 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
21 or paroled into the United States or to re-
22 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
23 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
24 seq.).

25 (C) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-
2 sular officer or the Secretary of State, (or
3 a designee of the Secretary of State) shall,
4 in accordance with section 221(i) of the
5 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
6 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry
7 documentation issued to a foreign person
8 regardless of when the visa or other entry
9 documentation is issued.

10 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-
11 ocation under clause (i) shall—

12 (I) take effect immediately; and

13 (II) automatically cancel any
14 other valid visa or entry documenta-
15 tion that is in the foreign person's
16 possession.

17 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
18 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
19 violation of a measure imposed pursuant to para-
20 graph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order
21 issued to carry out such paragraph shall be subject
22 to the penalties specified in subsections (b) and (c)
23 of section 206 of the International Emergency Eco-
24 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-

1 tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-
2 scribed in subsection (a) of such section.

3 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
4 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under subpara-
5 graph (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) shall not apply
6 with respect to a foreign person if admitting or pa-
7 roling such person into the United States is nec-
8 essary to permit the United States to comply with
9 the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the
10 United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
11 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,
12 between the United Nations and the United States,
13 or other applicable international obligations.

14 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

15 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
16 ercise all authorities provided under sections 203
17 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic
18 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out
19 this section.

20 (2) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President
21 shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as
22 are necessary to carry out this section.

23 (e) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President
24 may waive the application of the sanctions under sub-
25 section (c) if the President—

1 (1) determines that such a waiver is in the na-
2 tional interest of the United States; and

3 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional
4 committees a notice of and justification for the waiv-
5 er.

6 (f) TERMINATION.—The authority to impose sanc-
7 tions under subsection (b), and any sanctions imposed
8 pursuant to such authority, shall expire on the date that
9 is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (g) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
11 GOODS.—The authorities and requirements to impose
12 sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the
13 authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the im-
14 portation of goods.

15 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
20 Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
21 mittee on Financial Services of the House of
22 Representatives; and

23 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
24 the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-

1 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
2 of the Senate.

3 (2) GOOD.—The term “good” means any arti-
4 cle, natural or man-made substance, material, supply
5 or manufactured product, including inspection and
6 test equipment, and excluding technical data.

7 (3) PERSON FROM A NORTHERN TRIANGLE
8 COUNTRY.—The term “person from a Northern Tri-
9 angle country” means—

10 (A) a citizen of a Northern Triangle coun-
11 try; or

12 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
13 a Northern Triangle country or any jurisdiction
14 within a Northern Triangle country.

15 **SEC. 12. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ADVANCE NOTIFICA-**
16 **TION TO CONGRESS OF SECURITY ASSIST-**
17 **ANCE TO NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
19 sion of law, the President may not provide security assist-
20 ance to a Northern Triangle country during the 3-year
21 period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act
22 until 30 days after the date on which the President has
23 provided to the appropriate congressional committees no-
24 tice of such proposed provision of security assistance.

1 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
2 tion of subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Presi-
3 dent—

4 (1) determines it is in the national security in-
5 terests of the United States to do so; and

6 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional
7 committees such determination and the rationale for
8 the determination.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
14 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

15 (2) SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—The term “secu-
16 rity assistance”—

17 (A) has the meaning given such term in
18 section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance
19 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304); and

20 (B) includes assistance under any inter-
21 national security assistance program conducted
22 under any other provision of law not specified
23 in section 502B(d)(2) of such Act.

24 **SEC. 13. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “ap-
3 propriate congressional committees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
6 of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
9 Senate.

10 (2) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The term “North-
11 ern Triangle” means the region of Central America
12 that encompasses the countries of El Salvador, Gua-
13 temala, and Honduras.

14 (3) NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.—The
15 term “Northern Triangle countries” means the
16 countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

17 (4) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZA-
18 TION.—The term “transnational criminal organiza-
19 tion” has the meaning given the term “significant
20 transnational criminal organization” in Executive
21 Order No. 13581 (July 24, 2011).

22 **SEC. 14. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

23 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
24 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010,
25 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement

1 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
2 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
3 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
4 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
5 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives July 15, 2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2615

AN ACT

To support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.