

## **United States-Ecuador Partnership Act of 2022**

Cosponsored by Senators Menendez, Risch, Kaine and Rubio

The U.S.-Ecuador Partnership Act strengthens cooperation with Ecuador, a key democratic partner in Latin America, to advance mutual interests in strengthening democratic institutions, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and building capacity to fight corruption and criminality. On April 15, 2021, the Senate passed S.Res.22 in support of strengthening bilateral ties between the United States and Ecuador.

Sec. 3. Sense of Congress. Underscores Congress' desire to strengthen bilateral ties with Ecuador, recognizing that stronger U.S. ties with democratic allies in Latin America advances U.S. national interests.

Sec. 4. Facilitating Economic and Commercial Ties. Requires the development and implementation of a strategy to strengthen economic and commercial relations with Ecuador, including efforts to establish more competitive and transparent economic regulations, and strengthen digital infrastructure.

Sec. 5. Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. Requires the development and implementation of a strategy and related programming to support inclusive economic development. Programming includes specific support for small to medium-sized businesses and Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian communities.

Sec. 6. Combatting Illicit Economies, Corruption, and Negative Foreign Influence. Requires the development and implementation of a strategy and related programming to strengthen the capacity of Ecuador's law enforcement, defense, and judicial institutions to promote regional stability and address criminality, corruption, and malign foreign influence. Programming includes assistance to address challenges in Ecuador's penitentiary system, strengthen cybersecurity, promote and protect human rights, prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and combat transnational criminal networks.

Sec. 7. Strengthening Democratic Governance. Authorizes programming to strengthen democratic governance through engagement with national and subnational government institutions, political parties, and civil society. Additionally requires the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop and implement programming to provide technical assistance to Ecuador's National Assembly, and facilitate meetings between the U.S. Congress and the National Assembly in support of such efforts.

Sec. 8. Fostering Conservation and Stewardship. Authorizes programming to support and strengthen Ecuador's conservation and sustainable development efforts, including strengthening support for the rights and activities of Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian communities and natural disaster preparedness.