

7 February 2023

Dear Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force members,

Transparency International and its representatives in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, United States and in the European Union would like to commend members of the Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force for their efforts to identify kleptocratic assets hidden around the globe. Upon its establishment last year, we welcomed REPO for the crucial role it could play in strengthening international cooperation on cross-border corruption. As we approach the anniversary of its creation, we now call on you, the members of the task force, to report on progress made and challenges so far.

When the task force was established, Transparency International identified key measures to ensure its success. We called on the task force to expand membership, focus especially on professional enablers, engage with experts and communicate about its actions publicly.¹ Since then, we have been closely following both the task force and individual countries' actions.²

In the 2022 G7 Leaders' Communiqué, members committed to hold kleptocrats and their enablers accountable, and to broaden their global fight against cross-border corruption – including by building on the work of the REPO Task Force.³ To inform their future steps, G7 leaders asked the task force to report back on “potential additional measures to be taken” by the end of 2022.

Immediately after, the task force issued an update on its work,⁴ stating that member countries have either frozen or seized assets worth more than US\$30 billion. However, we still do not know the extent to which the creation of the task force has helped to improve cooperation and intelligence-sharing among members, nor do we know much about members' engagement with other financial centres that are not part of this joint effort.

¹ Transparency International (statement), [Transatlantic task force to track Russian dirty money has critical role](#), 7 March 2022

² Transparency International (report), [Up to the task? The state of play in countries committed to freezing and seizing Russian dirty money](#), 24 May 2022

³ [G7 Leaders' Communiqué](#), 28 June 2022

⁴ [Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs Task Force Joint Statement](#), 29 June 2022

Transparency International urges you to disclose information on progress made and challenges faced so far.⁵ In particular, we ask you to provide detailed information on:

- the number and value of assets frozen and seized
- the number and value of assets in the process of confiscation
- the number of investigations and/or actions targeting professional enablers
- the number of investigations of sanctions evasion
- the number of investigations and/or actions against sanctioned individuals for their potential involvement in money laundering and/or predicate offences
- the typologies exchanged between members
- the ways of working of the task force
- the main challenges that are hampering the detection, freezing and potential confiscation of illicit assets

Considering the challenges of sharing information and intelligence across borders combined with lengthy international cooperation processes, Transparency International believes that the REPO Task Force is a promising model for targeting illicit wealth – particularly if expanded. We find it encouraging that political leaders recognise this as well. We would welcome an opportunity to engage with you regarding potential avenues for broadening the scope, membership and mandate of the task force in a way that supports global efforts to tackle cross-border corruption and kleptocracy.

Queries can be directed to Maíra Martini, corrupt money flows expert at the Transparency International Secretariat: [REDACTED].

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Delia Ferreira Rubio

Chair of Transparency International

⁵ Transparency International (statement), [G7 Summit: Leaders recognise need to address kleptocracy, but remain vague on details](#), 28 June 2022