**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Albania,**

**47th Session, November 4, 2024**

**As delivered by Ambassador Michèle Taylor**

Thank you, Madam Vice President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Albania.

We commend Albania for its commitment to addressing high-level crime and corruption, including by investigating and prosecuting former and current government officials. We also appreciate the government’s increased funding to shelters serving victims of trafficking and re-establishment of its anti-trafficking hotline.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend that Albania:

1. Vigorously investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes and convict traffickers, including complicit officials, under Article 110 (a) and 128 (b) of the criminal code, rather than under lesser offenses.
2. Allocate sufficient resources to address overcrowding and poor physical conditions in prisons.
3. Address corruption within the State Police through the Police Oversight Agency’s inspections, investigations, and police vetting.
4. Improve enforcement of and responsiveness to complaints under existing anti-discrimination laws, including for LGBTQI+ persons and persons with disabilities.

Albania leads by example at the HRC through their commitment to human rights.

I thank you.