**Question:**

Would you support administrative action or legislation that would put cartels on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations?

**Answer:**

I am committed to working with our partners across the U.S. government to disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations, including cartels.  The United States has powerful designation authorities specifically designed to combat narcotics trafficking organizations.  These include the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, also known as the “Kingpin Act,” and Executive Order 14059, Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade, all of which are administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General.

The Kingpin Act provides authority to publicly identify significant foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations, and the foreign persons who support those traffickers and their organizations worldwide, and to freeze their assets.  Over 2,000 foreign individuals and entities have been designated by the U.S. government pursuant to the Kingpin Act since it became law in 1999.

Six tranches of narcotics trafficking designations have taken place since Executive Order 14059’s release on December 15, 2021.  The Department remains deeply concerned about cartels and the collective effects of their criminal activities on the United States, and we will continue to explore ways to dismantle transnational criminal organizations.