US to pay over \$200 mn in assessed, current obligations to WHO: Blinken



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the United States intends to pay over \$200 million in assessed and current obligations to the World Health Organization (WHO) by the end of this month.

"This is a key step forward in fulfilling our financial obligations as a WHO member," Blinken said in his remarks to a virtual UN Security Council briefing on Covid-19 on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported.

"It reflects our renewed commitment to ensuring the WHO has the support it needs to lead the global response to the pandemic, even as we work to reform it for the future," he added.

Accusing the WHO of mishandling the pandemic, the previous Donald Trump administration last year announced US withdrawal from the organisation and redirected its funding for the body to other UN assessments, which led to criticisms at home and abroad.

President Joe Biden, on his first day in office, reversed his predecessor's decision of withdrawing from the WHO.

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Antony Blinken