



## COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BELIZE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GUATEMALA

The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala, hereinafter referred to as "THE CHAMBERS", meeting in Guatemala City on December 9, 2015,

CONSIDERING the desire expressed by the delegations of Belize and Guatemala during the first meeting of the Joint Commission held in Punta Gorda, Belize on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to continue to examine bilateral trade exchanges.

HAVING AS A FINAL OBJECTIVE the promotion, development and diversification of the trade between the two countries in order to benefit the members of THE CHAMBERS (hereinafter referred to as "THE MEMBERS" and the peoples of Belize and Guatemala, based on their mutual benefit, have agreed on the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. THE CHAMBERS will promote and facilitate, according to the laws of and existing agreements between their respective countries, actions designed to promote and advance commercial exchanges and economic cooperation between interested MEMBERS.

For this purpose, THE CHAMBERS are committed to promote and facilitate the negotiation and implementation of agreements of commercial and economic cooperation between the enterprises of each country, to stimulate foreign trade and international economic cooperation.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>. THE CHAMBERS will work to identify, mutually beneficial opportunities to enhance and promote commercial trade and economic cooperation. To this end, THE CHAMBERS will promote and conduct, within the limits of their capacities, marketing research, as well as business promotion and development.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>. To achieve the objectives mentioned in points 1 and 2, THE CHAMBERS agree on the following:

- a. To continue to examine bilateral trade exchanges and explore the possibility of increasing the list of products in the Partial Scope Agreement.

- b. In an effort to enhance and improve trade as a means of meaningful sustainable development in both countries, THE CHAMBERS will work together to encourage and support their respective governments to promote trade facilitation.
- c. To exchange trade contacts and mailing lists, among other initiatives of priority in the area of bilateral trade.
- d. To adopt measures to maintain a continuous exchange of information and publications in the commercial and economic fields between THE CHAMBERS, in relation to the production of The MEMBERS and in the organization of fairs and exhibitions, as well as entrepreneurial missions in Belize and Guatemala, as well as together in other countries, when so agreed upon. For these purposes, THE CHAMBERS will provide THE MEMBERS with information about their respective markets, referring to exporters and importers, wholesalers and distributors, commercial agents, as well as product demand.
- e. THE CHAMBERS will provide the necessary support for the participation of THE MEMBERS in fairs, activities for commercial promotion, or exhibitions that are organized in Belize and Guatemala.
- f. THE CHAMBERS will exchange information relative to current and applicable legislation in matters of trade and industry in their respective jurisdiction. To this end, THE CHAMBERS will exchange documentation about legal authorization and will encourage improved information on the arbitration practices or of other means to settle controversies or differences, as well as any other aspect of mutual interest.
- g. THE CHAMBERS will provide advisory services to the MEMBERS regarding legal, economic, commercial and financial aspects that are within their expertise. In this regard, they will develop information and data mechanisms, and improve and elaborate upon existing ones, especially those related to foreign trade statistics, customs regulations, tariffs, trade regime and technical standards.
- h. THE CHAMBERS will support the MEMBERS during their stay in Belize and Guatemala respectively, providing where possible administrative and telecommunication services so that they have the means to conduct their business more effectively.
- i. THE CHAMBERS will offer support to companies in business development through their newsletters or other appropriate means.
- j. THE CHAMBERS, whenever deemed necessary, will coordinate and hold meetings between representatives of both Belize and Guatemala, in order to analyze the means to implement this agreement and to establish the necessary measures, working groups and structures for the continued development of trade relations between THE CHAMBERS, based on the present document.
- k. THE CHAMBERS undertake to support and / or complement actions to promote tourism and investment between the two countries as a way to encourage bilateral trade.

- I. THE CHAMBERS will share the present Agreement with the respective trade authorities in Belize and Guatemala so that they may examine the proposals contained in this document and take the pertinent actions.

4<sup>th</sup>. This Agreement will enter into force on December 9, 2015.

5<sup>th</sup>. The present Agreement will have a duration of two (2) years and will be automatically extended for equal periods, unless any of THE CHAMBERS wish to amend or revoke the Agreement, which shall be done in writing.

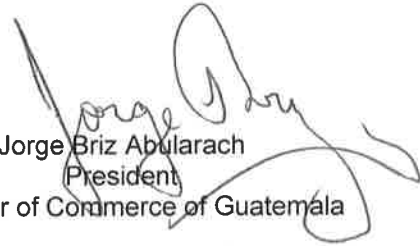
6<sup>th</sup>. Any dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably by THE CHAMBERS.

In witness thereof, we sign this Agreement in two original copies in English and Spanish.



Arturo Vasquez  
President

Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Jorge Briz Abularach  
President

Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala

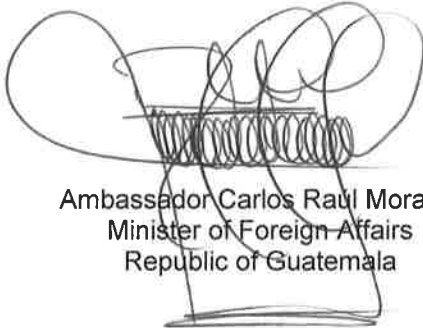
***Witness of Honor***



H. E. Alexis Rosado  
Ambassador of Belize in Guatemala



H.E. Manuel E. Roldán Barillas  
Ambassador of Guatemala in Belize



Ambassador Carlos Raúl Morales  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Guatemala



Ambassador Raúl Lago  
OAS Secretary General Special  
Representative  
For Belize-Guatemala Affairs