

**Meeting of Representatives of Belize and Guatemala to Negotiate a *Compromis* for
Submission of the Territorial Dispute to the International Court of Justice**

Delegation of Belize

Ambassador Alfredo Martínez, Chief Negotiator
Ambassador Nestor Méndez
Ambassador Eamon Courtenay
Ambassador Assad Shoman
Ambassador Diane Haylock
First Secretary Kendall Belisle

Delegation of Guatemala

Ambassador Roberto Palomo, Chief Negotiator
Ambassador Gustavo Orellana
Ambassador Leonel Maza

General Secretariat

Dr. Raúl Lago
Dr. Felipe Paolillo
Magdalena Talamás

Background

In November 2007 the governments of Belize and Guatemala reached the conclusion that the nature of their territorial dispute was essentially juridical, and both countries accepted the Secretary General's recommendation that the dispute should be resolved by the International Court of Justice. To this end, the OAS General Secretariat began a new process of negotiation to draft an agreement by which both countries would formally submit the matter to the Court. Initial negotiations for this purpose took place at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on June 29 and July 1, 2008. On that occasion the legal adviser of the OAS General Secretariat presented a draft agreement for consideration by both parties. After the document was analyzed, it was agreed that Belize would submit a new document incorporating the changes proposed by both parties during the negotiation meetings. The delegations of Belize and Guatemala met again on July 29 and 30 to receive Belize's proposal and comment on it. Guatemala presented its own proposal to the delegation of Belize and the OAS General Secretariat for consideration at the meeting set for the end of August.