

**ROAD MAP FOR  
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONS  
IN 2014**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Belize and Guatemala, in the presence of and with the support of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS);

WHEREAS an objective of the Framework Agreement for Negotiations and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala, is to maintain and deepen friendly bilateral relations, while the territorial, insular and maritime dispute remains unresolved;

WHEREAS both countries have accepted to finally put an end to any and all differences regarding their respective land and insular territories and their maritime areas, as outlined in the Special Agreement between Belize and Guatemala of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008, by submitting the dispute to the International Court of Justice;

WHEREAS the simultaneous Referenda programmed to take place on 6th October 2013 were not carried out;

WHEREAS the parties are committed to creating a climate of confidence conducive to the fixing of a date for holding the necessary referenda to lead to the International Court of Justice in accordance to article 1 of the Special Agreement;

Therefore, the Foreign Ministers agree:

**JANUARY 2014**

1. In accordance with Section "D" paragraph 20, of the Confidence Building Measures contained in the Framework Agreement for Negotiations and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs establish the Belize – Guatemala Joint Commission, with the support and the participation of a representative of the OAS Secretary General. This Commission will explore and develop cooperation projects and programs between the two countries, with the goal of strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between them. The Joint Commission will be headed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala and comprised of members that the Commission deems necessary.

**FEBRUARY 2014**

2. The Belize – Guatemala Joint Commission will develop a program of activities to implement in 2014, in accordance with article 20, subparagraphs "a" to "v" of the Framework Agreement for Negotiations and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala that will be promoted and coordinated by the

Commission. The Commission may, in addition, undertake other programs, projects and activities not contained in the aforementioned article.

FROM FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER 2014.

3. The approved projects, programs and activities will be promoted and coordinated by the Commission.
4. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet in June to evaluate the progress of the work assigned to the Commission.
5. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries will meet with the Secretary General in December to evaluate the activities, programs and projects of 2014, and agree on a program for 2015. At this meeting the possibility of setting a date in 2015 for the simultaneous referenda will be reviewed.

For the Government of Belize




Honourable Wilfred P. Elrington  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Guatemala



H.E. Fernando Carrera Castro  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Organization of American States



H.E. Jose Miguel Insulza  
Secretary General of the Organization of American States

Done in original Spanish and English in Washington, D.C. on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2014

Review and expand the Partial Scope Agreement with the possibility of extending it to a Free Trade Agreement between both countries.

Promote tourism between Belize and Guatemala and the development of multiple destination tourism to both countries.

An Agreement to allow nationals to serve prison sentences in their respective countries.

Review deportation procedures to expedite the deportation of nationals that enter either country without proper documentation.

Memorandum of Understanding for the protection of the environment, including the sustainable use of natural forest resources in the respective countries.

Expand and strengthen Cooperation mechanisms including coordinated operations between security agencies to combat illicit activities and transnational crime.

Agreement for the return of stolen vehicles.

Land, Air and Maritime Transport Agreement between both countries that will include the facilitation of transit of persons and personal belongings between Belize and Guatemala

Agreement on the sustainable and strategic use of shared hydrocarbon deposits.

Agreement for the recognition of degrees and diplomas of education at all levels.

Agreement for the electric interconnectivity between Belize and Guatemala, with a view to membership of Belize in SIEPAC.

Agreement for temporary workers.

Meeting of Parliamentarians.

Meeting of Mayors.

Meeting of Ministers and/or Vice Ministers of Foreign Trade.

Meeting of Chambers of Commerce, national and local.

Meeting of public health authorities at all levels.

Meeting of education authorities at all levels.

Meeting of planning and economic development authorities from both countries.

Meeting of authorities on any matter that is considered necessary.

Promotion of cultural and sporting events.

Promote Belize's membership in SIECA.

Mutual recognition of driver licenses.

A cooperation agreement for the preservation, protection and return of archeological artifacts.

Facilitation of student visas.

Meeting of Agricultural authorities and of authorities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary controls at all levels.

Meeting of Young Leaders of both countries.