



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **The National Assembly Hosts Awareness Workshop on the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime**

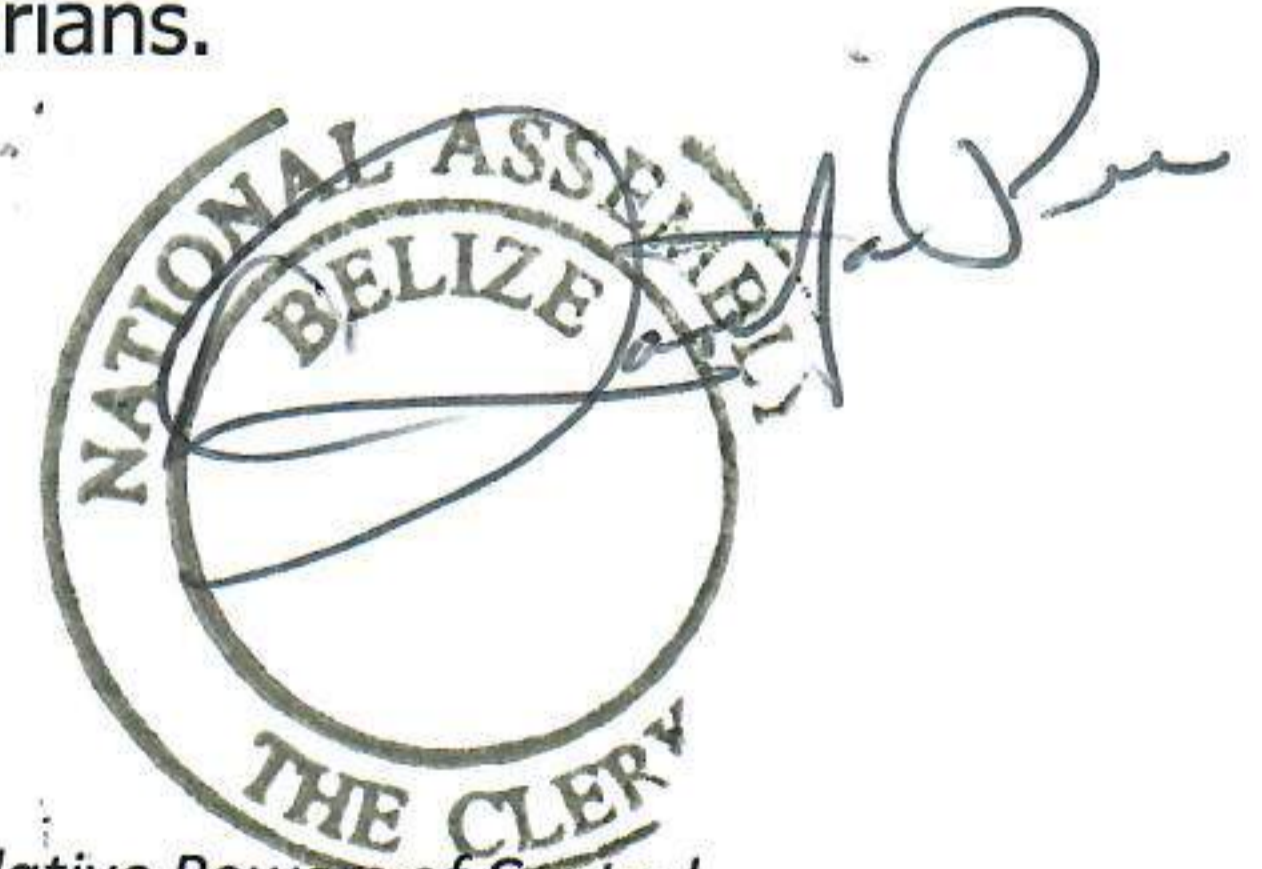
—**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**—The National Assembly, in collaboration with the Council of Europe (COE), organized through the GLACY+ Project, and the Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Powers of Central America and the Caribbean Basin (FOPREL), held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, an awareness workshop on the universality of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. The workshop was held at the NEMO Training Room, NEMO Building, Belmopan.

The meeting was organized as a follow-up event to an advisory mission on the Harmonization of Legislation on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The advisory mission produced a legislative assessment containing comments on the Cybercrime Bill of Belize and drafting recommendations for consideration, aimed at harmonizing the national legislation on cybercrime and electronic evidence with the provisions of the Budapest Convention. Through this collaboration with FOPREL and COE, Belize was able to enact its first legislation on cybercrime in October 2020.

Speaker Valerie Woods gave the welcome remarks, followed by Dr. Santiago LeClair, FOPREL Executive Secretary, and Mr. Alexander Seger, Executive Secretary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee Division. Three short presentations were delivered to the Members of the House and Senate present at Friday's event. Mr. Alexander Seger, and Mr. Claudio Peguero, Advisor on cybercrime matters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dominican Republic, both provided information on the Budapest Convention, its impact, benefits and the process of accession; as well as capacity building on cybercrime and electronic evidence in Belize, state of play, challenges and solutions; and the role of policymakers in strengthening the criminal justice response to cybercrime.

Members present at the workshop agreed there is a need to sensitize Members of the National Assembly on Belize's laws on cybercrime which would assist in understanding the call for accession to the convention and welcomed future collaborative opportunities that can assist in this effort. Honourable Elvia Vega-Samos, on behalf of the National Assembly members present expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the organizers for their presentations and sharing of information with parliamentarians.

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*Belize is one of the founding members of FOPREL. The Forum of Presidents of Legislative Powers of Central America, the Caribbean Basin and Mexico (FOPREL) is an organization that is led by the heads of the legislative powers of each member parliament. FOPREL assist its members with their legislative work through the application and standardization of legislation based on key thematic areas which are used as guidelines for consideration by each parliament and promotes inter-parliamentary exchanges for the sharing of information and experiences.*