

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

**THE UNITED NATIONS
REPRESENTED BY THE
THE OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BELIZE**

AND

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BELIZE (“Partner”)
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN MEETING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BELIZE**

The United Nations represented by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Belize and the National Assembly of Belize, hereinafter referred to as the “Signatories”;

Recognizing the critical importance of partnerships with the private sector, civil society and academia to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and especially through its SDG Partnership Platform flagship program launched at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly;

Acknowledging the Signatories’ common intent to strategically collaborate in order to support the achievement of the SDGs in Belize and to continue to make progress on recovery and resilience in the post COVID-19 era, specifically along key cross-cutting areas of common interest;

Aiming to cooperate in areas of mutual interests related to the work of the United Nations Country Team in Belize and the development efforts by the National Assembly of Belize, including its Chambers the House of Representatives and the Senate of Belize; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Signatories affirm their intention to collaborate guided by the following understanding and principles:

1. The Signatories intend to collaborate and cooperate in the following areas within their respective mandates, regulations, rules, policies and procedures in supporting the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Development Agenda in Belize:

- a. Support in areas of development cooperation and mutual interest under the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) 2022-2026 for the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean and its Country Implementation Plans, as well as the Belize Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2022-2026.
- b. Adoption of international human rights-based approaches and standards, and the principle of Leave No One Behind (LNOB), to pursue legislative, regulatory, and policy frameworks that strengthen and secure the inclusion of human rights and their protection in Belize.
- c. Implementation of best practices and recommendations from the Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 26 issued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for Democracy and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- d. Incorporation of gender and human rights approaches in the exercise of roles and functions, including as transversal axes in conceptual and ethical frameworks, as well as in the contents of national legislations, regulations and policies.
- e. Implementation of inclusive citizen participation processes and the facilitation of national civic space that enables an environment where peoples and groups (especially those vulnerable, marginalized or excluded) can participate meaningfully in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the Belize society, contributing to policy-making that affects their lives, while being able to freely engage in dialogues of dissent or collective expression of their views.
- f. Facilitation of technical exchange and / or advice for the treatment of specialized topics of interest leveraging available national, regional or global networks.
- g. Evidence generation, knowledge management and capacity strengthening based on best practices and available technical expertise in the following areas:
 - i. Governance and Democratic Institutional Strengthening
 - ii. Legislative Review and Analysis
 - iii. Follow-ups to support State commitments to international UN conventions, treaties and agreements
 - iv. New Urban Agenda
 - v. Gender Responsive Budgeting and Gender Transformative Approaches
 - vi. Gender Transformative Social Protection
 - vii. Food Security Systems, Climate Change and Risk Mitigation
 - viii. Additional areas related to Agenda 2030, the SDGs and LNOB
- h. Cross-collaboration and partnership in the dissemination, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and their respective targets and indicators in Belize including the following:
 - i. Goal 1 – No Poverty
 - ii. Goal 2 – Zero Hunger
 - iii. Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
 - iv. Goal 4 – Quality Education

- v. Goal 5 – Gender Equality
- vi. Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation
- vii. Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
- viii. Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ix. Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- x. Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- xi. Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- xii. Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- xiii. Goal 13 – Climate Action
- xiv. Goal 14 – Life Below Water
- xv. Goal 15 – Life on Land
- xvi. Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- xvii. Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

2. The Signatories will negotiate and conclude appropriate forms of agreement once they have identified specific projects and activities to be implemented relating to the areas of their mutual interests, as set forth in paragraph 1, above.
3. The above-mentioned agreements will be signed by the Signatories before they undertake any of the activities or projects. Each agreement will address, *inter alia*, the responsibilities and liability of each Signatory, and financial arrangement.
4. The Signatories' respective focal points for the purposes of this present Declaration of Intent, including the identification of potential activities and projects relating to their areas of mutual interests are:

For the United Nations:

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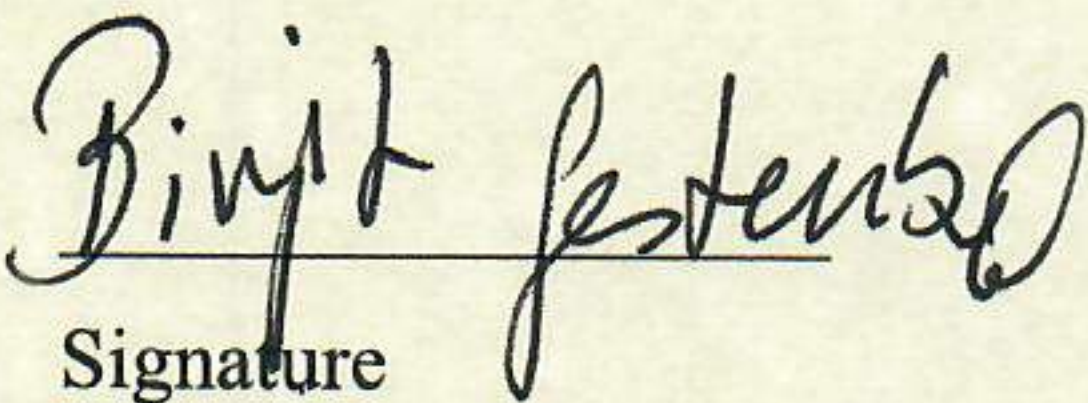
Hon. Valerie Woods
Speaker, House of Representatives of Belize
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5. Neither Signatory will use the name, emblem or trademarks of the other Signatory, or any of its subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, without the express prior written approval of the other Signatory in each case. In no event will authorization to use the UN name or emblem, or any abbreviation thereof, be granted for commercial purposes, or for use in any manner that suggests an endorsement by the United Nations of the Partner(s) or its products and/or services.
6. Nothing in or related to the present Declaration of Intent will be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.
7. This Declaration of Intent does not create any legally binding rights or obligations on the Signatories.

Signed in Belmopan, Belize on 1st December 2022.


FOR The United Nations:

Birgit Gerstenberg
Resident Coordinator of
El Salvador and Belize

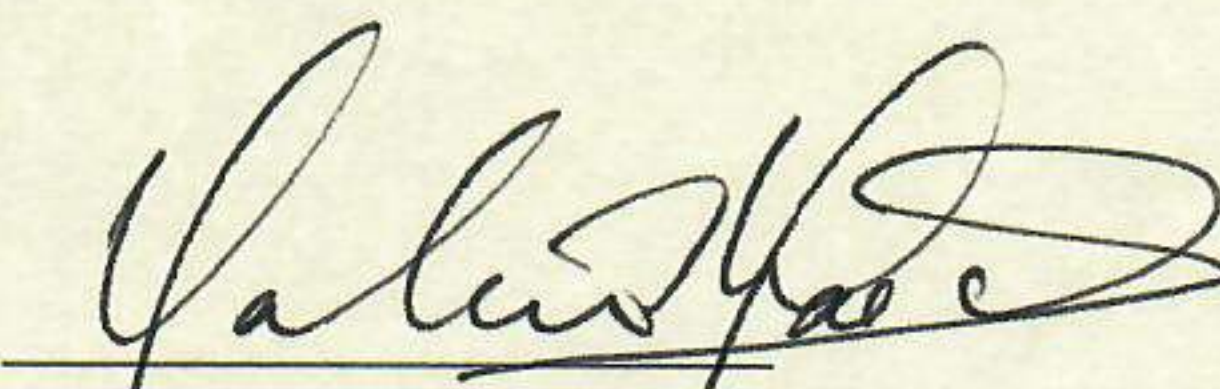

Signature

FOR The National Assembly of Belize:

Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford
President, Senate of Belize
National Assembly of Belize


Signature

Hon. Valerie Woods
Speaker, House of Representatives
National Assembly of Belize


Signature