

**Resolution Authorizing the Ratification of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement
(CTA) Motion, 2022.**

WHEREAS, the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels was adopted in 1977, and later amended by the 1993 Protocol and the Agreement;

AND WHEREAS, the Convention was the first international convention to establish clear requirements for the safety of fishing vessels, recognizing the significant differences in design and operations between these vessels and standards established for other types of ships;

AND WHEREAS, the Convention was later modified by the Cape Town Agreement of 2012;

AND WHEREAS, the 2012 Cape Town Agreement will finally establish an International Maritime Organization (IMO) mandatory instrument for fishing vessels, providing consolidated/unified standards on design, construction, and equipment of fishing vessel, including regulations designed to protect the safety of crews and observers and provide a level playing field for the industry; the Agreement will also contribute to the battle against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Belize is desirous of ratifying the Agreement;

AND WHEREAS, the ratification of the Agreement will permit Belize to further demonstrate its commitment to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the maritime industry by promoting consolidated higher safety standards for fishing vessels, more robust qualifications for personnel, better living conditions for crews and a Port State Control Inspection Program; the Agreement will also strengthen the combat against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities;

AND WHEREAS, section 61 (A) (2) (a) of the Belize Constitution, as amended by the Belize Constitution (Sixth Amendment) Act (No 13 of 2008), provides that the Senate shall authorize the accession to any treaty by the Government of Belize;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate authorizes the Government of Belize to ratify the Agreement, a full text of which is hereto annexed.