



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives attends the 32<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of FOPREL in San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - The Honourable Marconi Leal Jr., Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Education, Culture and Technology, along with the Clerk to the National Assembly, Mrs. Clarita Pech, are currently attending the 32<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Powers of Central America, the Caribbean Basin and Mexico (FOPREL). The Meeting is being held from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2025, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Extraordinary Meeting brought together Speakers/Deputy Speakers and technical experts from across the region with the purpose of advancing a Strategic Dialogue aimed at strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation among FOPREL member countries. Discussions centred on the development of innovative legislative and institutional initiatives to promote comprehensive development, legal certainty, and enhanced regional competitiveness in the short and medium term.

Throughout the sessions, participants reviewed progress under FOPREL's Five-Year Institutional Development Plan and held in-depth discussions on regional priorities, including artificial intelligence applied to justice and security, food and nutrition security, harmonized criminal classification and investigative measures to combat corruption, and coordinated responses to synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances. Delegates further explored opportunities to modernize legislative frameworks and improve institutional capacities within member parliaments.

The Meeting concluded with the adoption of two resolutions: the Resolution on Strengthening Regional Strategic Dialogue and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and the Resolution of Appreciation to the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Several key technical-legislative instruments were also endorsed, including the Regional Framework Law on Artificial Intelligence Applied to Justice and Security, the Technical-Legislative Report on the Harmonized Classification of Crimes and Investigative Measures to Effectively Combat Corruption in Central America, the Caribbean Basin, and Mexico. The Meeting also ratified the preparation of the Technical-Legislative Report on the Legal Framework for the Fight Against Synthetic Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances in the FOPREL Region.

All travel expenses for the Honourable Leal Jr. and Mrs. Pech were fully funded by FOPREL and the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico. The delegation is scheduled to return to Belize on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

For more information about FOPREL and its initiatives, please visit its official platforms:  
<https://foprelorg.com>

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