

**Memorandum of Understanding
between the Central American Integration System and
the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada
concerning Canada's observer status**

The Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada (DFATD), hereinafter referred to as the "Participants",

Considering the friendly and respectful relations between SICA and Canada;

Considering that the Protocol of Tegucigalpa to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) states, in article 17, that it is the responsibility of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SICA to decide on the entry of observers to the System, and that said Council, at its LXXVI ordinary meeting on December 13, 2018 held in Belize, decided favorably on the admission and entry of Canada as an observer to SICA;

Considering the cultural, economic, social, political, democratic and security links that exist between Canada and SICA; especially the convergence of the guiding principles of Canada enshrined in its Constitution with the objectives and purposes of SICA included in the Protocol of Tegucigalpa to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) in articles 3 and 4;

Considering that in compliance with the "Regulations for the Admission and Participation of Observers before the Central American Integration System", adopted in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on June 29, 2018, effective as of July 29 of the same year; have decided to formalize the participation of Canada to SICA as observer;

Considering that DFATD will represent Canada in SICA;

Have come to the following understanding:

1. SICA will allow Canada to participate as an observer in the Meeting of Presidents and the Council of Ministers, when the call includes the observers, or other SICA organisms and institutions that deal with issues related to the region, such as: support for integration and cooperation for sustainable development in the economic, technological, scientific, environmental and human fields.
2. The Participants understand that Canada may participate by invitation of the organisms and institutions of SICA, channeled through its General Secretariat (SG-SICA).
3. (a) DFATD may submit an application to the SG-SICA to participate in a particular Meeting of Presidents, Council of Ministers or other SICA organisms or institutions for Canada. DFATD will ensure that the request mentions the specific interest of its participation. The Participants understand that the response to the request will be notified through the SG-SICA.



(b) In cases of acceptance, SICA will ensure that its organism or institution communicates the conditions of the participation and DFATD will confirm Canada's participation through the SG-SICA.

4. (a) DFATD may submit to SICA's consideration, through the SG-SICA, agenda items aimed at strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between Canada and SICA. SICA will ensure that the corresponding decisions are communicated through its SG-SICA.

(b) SICA, through its SG-SICA, may also propose to DFATD agenda topics of interest and aimed at meeting the objectives, goals and purposes of SICA.

5. (a) The Participants understand that:

- i. Canada may speak at the Meetings referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, but may not vote.
- ii. Canada's participation will not affect the consensus of the SICA institutions.

(b) The Participants understand that the possibility for Canada to speak will be limited to matters that are of its interest, that affect it directly or that the SICA Institution decides.

(c) The Participants understand that SG-SICA will seek to ensure that the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Meeting of Presidents, the Council of Ministers or another organism or institution of SICA guarantees the possibility for Canada to speak.

6. DFATD will inform SICA of its interest in working together in areas of mutual interest, and offer to do so through the different SICA Secretaries.

7. (a) With the purpose of creating a space for dialogue to promote concrete actions of cooperation and joint coordination, SICA will develop a periodical follow-up coordination meeting between the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the observers.

(b) The Participants understand that:


- i. the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs will send an invitation to DFATD through the SG-SICA, providing scheduling details of meeting courtesies for observers;
- ii. DFATD may then request a meeting courtesy from the pro-tempore presidency's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

8. The Participants understand that the admission of Canada as an observer of SICA will not imply any financial obligation. DFATD may declare any contribution or cooperation or make any contribution for Canada it considers appropriate to a SICA activity or program, which will be formalized through notes addressed to the SG-SICA.

9. (a) This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will take effect on the date of its last signature by the Participants.

(b) The Participants will deposit this MOU with the SG-SICA, which will publish it in the Official Digital Gazette of SICA in accordance with the provisions of the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa" and the "Regulations of the Official Digital Gazette of SICA".

(c) The Participants may amend this MOU at any time upon their mutual written consent.

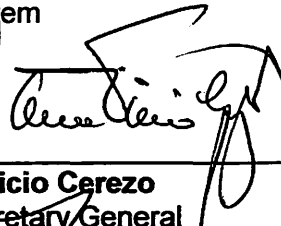


(d) Either Participant may terminate this MOU by giving a six months' written notice to the other Participant.

(e) The Participants understand that termination of this MOU will not affect the execution of projects and other commitments already in place.

Signed in duplicate, in Guatemala city on June 4, 2019 in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally valid.

For the Central American Integration
System



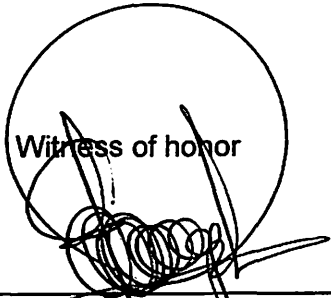
Vinicio Cerezo
Secretary General

For the Department of Foreign Affairs,
Trade and Development of Canada



Michael Grant
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Witness of honor



Sandra Jovel Polanco
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Presidency Pro Tempore
Republic of Guatemala