

PROTOCOL TO THE SPECIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELIZE  
AND GUATEMALA TO SUBMIT GUATEMALA'S TERRITORIAL  
INSULAR AND MARITIME CLAIM  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

*[Original English text]*

Belize and the Republic of Guatemala, hereinafter “the Parties”;

*Convinced* that International Law provides the basis for peaceful coexistence and for the pacific settlement of disputes between States;

*Noting* that the Parties reached the conclusion in 2007 that all pacific means for the settlement of disputes between Belize and Guatemala have been exhausted, except by the juridical means;

*Recalling* that Belize and Guatemala accepted the recommendation by the OAS Secretary-General to submit Guatemala's territorial, insular and maritime claim to the International Court of Justice for a definitive settlement, which was confirmed by Guatemala in writing on 17 December 2007 and reaffirmed on 16 June 2008; and confirmed in writing by Belize on 29 May 2008;

*Considering* that the Special Agreement between Belize and Guatemala to submit Guatemala's territorial, insular and maritime claim to the International Court of Justice; signed on 8 December 2008 under the auspices of the OAS (henceforth referred to as the “Special Agreement”), defines the mechanism to put an end to such claims;

*Reiterating* that the objective and purpose of the Special Agreement is to definitively put an end to any and all differences between the Parties in respect of Guatemala's territorial, insular and maritime claim in the International Court of Justice;

*Noting* that the simultaneous referendum between the two countries programmed for 6 October 2013 did not take place;

*Considering* that the Parties remain committed to the creation of a climate of confidence between their two peoples;

*Reaffirming* the commitment to submit the dispute to the International Court of Justice for a final and definitive resolution in accordance with the Special Agreement;

*Reiterating* the commitment of the Parties to promote good neighbourliness and bilateral co-operation in all areas and levels of mutual interest, and the need to implement the thirteen Agreements signed on 17 December 2014 in Placencia, Belize, as well as the undertakings made at the meeting of the Belize-Guatemala Joint Commission of 10 October 2014 held in Guatemala City;

*Convinced* that all efforts must be made now to resolve the differences that still subsist so that they are not passed on to future generations;

*Whereas by mutual consent, the Parties now agree as follows:*

*Article 1*

To ensure, through active public information efforts that their respective citizens are fully informed of the differences between the two Parties in respect of Guate-

mala's territorial, insular and maritime claim and of the need to resolve them finally and definitively in the International Court of Justice.

*Article 2*

To take all suitable actions and measures within their respective internal normative requirements to submit Guatemala's territorial insular and maritime claim to the International Court of Justice for the latter to hear the case, and decide and resolve it in a definitive manner.

*Article 3*

1. To amend Article 7.2 of the Special Agreement, which shall now read: "The referendum will be held simultaneously or separately on the dates most convenient to the Parties".
2. To amend Article 8 of the Special Agreement, which shall now read:  
"The Registrar of the Court shall be notified of this Special Agreement jointly or by either of the Parties within a month after the referendum in each country has approved, pursuant to Article 7.2, submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice".

For the purpose of implementing Article 3 subparagraph 2 (a) of the Special Agreement, it is understood that the time frame for the presentation of the Memorial shall begin to run from the date when both Parties have notified the Registrar of the International Court of Justice of their approval based on the results of the referendum to submit the dispute to its jurisdiction.

*Article 4*

This Protocol will enter into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification and remain in force unless and until terminated by agreement of the Parties.

Signed in Guatemala on the 25th day of May 2015, in triplicate in English and Spanish, being all texts equally authentic.

For Belize,  
(Signed) Wilfred ELRINGTON,  
Attorney General  
and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

For the Republic of Guatemala,  
(Signed) Carlos Raúl MORALES MOSCOSO,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(Signed) José Miguel INSULZA,  
Secretary-General of the Organization of American States.  
(Witness of Honour)

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