

**OUR REF: BBS/GEN/44/21(46)**

Date: November 16, 2021

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

In 2020 the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) collaborated with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and several other international organizations such as the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), The International Organization for Legal Metrology, (OIML), and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), to develop a guide for laboratory policy development and implementation. Recognizing its importance and the benefits of regionalizing this document, CROSQ with support from UNIDO has embarked on a project to develop a Regional Non-medical Laboratory Policy (RLP) for use by CARICOM member states to guide the activities of non-medical laboratories to facilitate, among other things, sustainability of services, use of regional resources, and measurement assurance.

This short-term project will examine the national laboratory environment of three CARICOM member states, including Belize. During the implementation of the project, information from stakeholders will be gathered and vetted to develop and promulgate a regional policy which can then be used as a firm foundation for national adaptation/adoption. The development of the RLP will be supported at the national level by a National Working Group (NWG) comprised of public and private stakeholders. The policy objective is to facilitate and cause an increase in the number and scopes of accredited laboratories nationally, and by extension, more access and affordability of regional laboratories, hence increasing the competitiveness and quality index of the CARICOM region.

In this regard, the BBS hereby invites your organization to take part in the national kick-off stakeholder engagement set to take place virtually on **30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am** intending to provide a synopsis of the project and present an overview of Quality Infrastructure highlighting, specifically, the role of non-medical laboratories.

Your presence and active participation in this event is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



**José E. Trejo**  
Director





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**R.S.V.P. by 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

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