



Remarks on the Occasion of the Signing of the *Declaration of Social Partners of Belize (SPoB)*
for Reform of Essential Oversight Mechanisms to Strengthen the Democratic Governance of
Belize

25th September 2020

By: Marissa Longsworth, President

Good morning to all present today and to those witnessing this occasion live on Facebook. The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pleased to be seated at this table today and to endorse this joint declaration. Since February of this year, a large grouping of representatives from these three organizations convened and began to plan how we can strengthen our alliance.

And though, just like any friendship, we do have our occasional differences, we have focused on the unassailable pursuit of good governance which obviously transcends short-term issues, election cycles, politics, and most recently even the COVID pandemic. Indeed, COVID slowed our progress by a couple of months, but when we met once again to discuss, this time at a virtual Zoom table, we immediately met eye-to-eye once again, and picked up right from where we had last left off.

This declaration signals the public start of our intended activities over several years to come. The BCCI views this as a long-term commitment, where no effort will be spared and no step should be underestimated for its impact on, and shaping of, the future of governance in Belize.

And so we say: Thank you to the Belize Network of NGOs and thank you to the National Trade Union Congress of Belize, for this partnership and all the efforts already made by your respective teams plus the efforts to come as we plan and execute the actions committed to in this declaration.
