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PRESS RELEASE

High-Level Delegation Meets with Multilateral Development Banks, U.S. Government Agencies and Canadian Government Officials

Belmopan. April 27, 2022. 10:45 a.m.

Hon. Christopher Coye, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, led a high-level delegation of Belizean officials to Washington, D.C., from April 19 to 22, 2022, for a series of meetings with senior representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC). The delegation also met with senior representatives from the U.S. Treasury and the Office of Comptroller of Currency and held a bilateral meeting with Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan, Canada's Minister of International Development.

At the invitation of the IMF, Minister Coye gave remarks on Belize's experience and approach to pursuing fiscal consolidation while maintaining social cohesion at the IMF's Western Hemisphere Director's Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors. Similarly, at the invitation of the World Bank, Minister Coye gave remarks on the acute challenges faced by the Caribbean at the World Bank Managing Director's Meeting of Caribbean Governors.

The objectives of the mission were to (i) build deeper relationships between Belize and its various multilateral and bilateral partners; (ii) update its partners on Belize's experience and way forward; (iii) address ongoing challenges including correspondent banking relationships and financial de-risking; (iv) emphasize national priorities including education, MSME support, energy/electricity costs, poverty alleviation, climate resiliency and debt sustainability; (v) discuss ongoing and pipeline projects; and (vi) enlist

further support of its partners, by way of financial and technical assistance, to address government's priorities and progress its Plan Belize initiatives.

Belize's delegation was well-received by all its multilateral partners who endorsed the stellar efforts of this administration and indicated their willingness to make available meaningful financial and technical resources in support of Belize's sustainable economic and human development in numerous areas, including education, digitization, renewable energy and carbon credits framework development.

On behalf of the government and people of Belize, Minister Coye expressed his appreciation to Belize's multilateral, bilateral and private sector partners for their continuing commitment to Belize.

Minister Coye was joined by Mr. Joseph Waight, Financial Secretary; Mr. Kareem Michael, Governor, Central Bank of Belize; Dr. Osmond Martinez, CEO, Ministry of Economic Development; and H.E. Lynn Young, Belize's Ambassador to the USA and Canada.

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For further information, please contact:

Dr. Osmond Martinez, Chief Executive Officer and Belize's NDA to the GCF at ceo@med.gov.bz