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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Participates in Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SICA with the Director General of the Pan American Health Organization

Belmopan. March 10, 2021. 5:45 p.m.

Ambassador Amalia Mai, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, headed the Belize delegation on behalf of Hon. Eamon Courtenay, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, at the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SICA with Dr. Carissa Etienne, Director General of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The dialogue between the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SICA and the Director General of PAHO was convened to discuss the fair, transparent, equitable, efficient distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines in the SICA Region. Dr. Etienne reiterated the importance of PAHO's participation in the COVAX Facility especially for developing countries of the Americas. Dr. Etienne also commented that no one should be left behind in having access to the vaccines. She called on the region to support PAHO's Revolving Fund, a cooperation mechanism for the joint procurement of vaccines, syringes, and related health supplies.

CEO Mai called for continued regional solidarity to ensure access for all to the COVID-19 vaccines in a timely manner.

Ends