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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Belize and COSEFIN Discuss Strategic Priorities for Upcoming COSEFIN Pro Tempore Presidency**

*Belmopan, May 22, 2026.*

Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, and Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer, met with the Executive Secretariat of COSEFIN, led by Dr. Federico Rivera Romero, with the objective of continuing preparations for the Pro Tempore Presidency that Belize will assume during the second half of 2026.

During the meeting, the strategic vision that Belize seeks to promote within the regional space was shared, highlighting its interest in strengthening Belize's participation within COSEFIN and promoting greater integration with the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic. The dialogue made it possible to identify points of connection between the country's national priorities and opportunities for joint work within the framework of the regional fiscal agenda.

Belize also expressed its interest in continuing the regional process for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Financial Management, particularly within the framework of the biannual plan expected to be developed during its Pro Tempore Presidency. This support represents an opportunity to continue consolidating a regional agenda aimed at strengthening the resilience of public finances and preventive financial management against disaster risks.

In addition, discussions were held on opportunities for coordination with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other multilateral actors to promote regional spaces around issues of common interest, such as climate change, sustainability, resilience, and territorial development. These potential partnerships would strengthen Belize's positioning as a meeting point for regional dialogue, connecting its national priorities with a shared sustainable development agenda.

In this context, various strategic sectors were addressed from a fiscal policy and economic development perspective, highlighting the potential of artisanal cacao as a productive sector with high added value, whose promotion could contribute to the diversification of the productive base, the strengthening of local economies, and the generation of sustainable fiscal revenues.

Key areas such as tourism connectivity, financial systems, and energy integration were also analyzed, understood as drivers for improving competitiveness, attracting investment, and expanding fiscal space through economic growth. These issues are framed within the challenges associated with inflation, climate change, and youth inclusion, emphasizing the importance of designing public policies that integrate sustainability, resilience, and territorial development, in line with a fiscal agenda that promotes both macroeconomic stability and inclusive development.

This meeting reaffirmed Belize's interest in strengthening its participation within the regional COSEFIN agenda, promoting a Pro Tempore Presidency focused on integration, sustainability, regional connectivity, and the development of productive sectors with cultural and economic value for the country.

## **Ends**

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