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PRESS RELEASE

Statement on the Measures Announced by the People's Republic of China Against the Honourable Francis Fonseca

Belmopan, October 12, 2026.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize has taken note of the announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on October 12, 2026, concerning unilateral measures against Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Education, Culture, Science and Technology of Belize.

Belize is a sovereign and independent state. Under the Charter of the United Nations, every state has the right to conduct its foreign policy free from external pressure. The principles of sovereign equality and non-intervention in the affairs of other states are the foundation of the international order on which small states depend for their security and development.

Belize's diplomatic relationship with Taiwan was established by a sovereign decision of our country. It is a partnership that has delivered cooperation in development, health, education, infrastructure, the environment, and agriculture for the benefit of the Belizean people. The Minister has acted at all times in his official capacity, on the instructions of the Government and in the national interest of Belize. Measures directed at an individual for carrying out the lawful duties of his office are unwarranted, and we reject them.

These measures will not alter Belize's foreign policy, nor will they deter the Government from carrying out its responsibilities. The Government of Belize continues to stand fully behind Minister Fonseca.

Belize remains committed to peaceful relations with all states, to dialogue as the means of resolving differences, and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. We call on all states to refrain from unilateral

coercive measures against officials of other states. We will consult closely with our bilateral and regional partners and the wider international community on this development.

The Government of Belize thanks its regional and international partners for their solidarity and will continue to keep the Belizean public informed.

Ends