PREAMBLE


STRENGTHEN the special bonds of friendship and cooperation among their nations and promote regional economic integration;

CONTRIBUTE to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade and provide a catalyst to broader international cooperation;

CREATE an expanded and secure market for the goods and services produced in their territories while recognizing the differences in the level of development and size of the Parties’ economies;

AVOID distortions to their reciprocal trade;

ESTABLISH clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade;

ENSURE a predictable commercial framework for business planning and investment;

BUILD on their respective rights and obligations under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and other multilateral and bilateral instruments of cooperation;

SEEK to facilitate regional trade by promoting efficient and transparent customs procedures to reduce costs and to ensure predictability for importers and exporters of the Parties;

ENHANCE the competitiveness of their firms in global markets;

FOSTER creativity and innovation, and promote trade in goods and services that are the subject of intellectual property rights;

PROMOTE transparency and eliminate bribery and corruption in international trade and investment;

CREATE opportunities for economic and social development;

PROTECT, enhance, and enforce basic workers’ rights and strengthen their cooperation on labor matters;
CREATE new employment opportunities and improve working conditions and living standards in their respective territories;

BUILD on their respective international commitments on labor matters;

IMPLEMENT this Agreement in a manner consistent with environmental protection and conservation, promote sustainable development, and strengthen their cooperation on environmental matters;

PROTECT and preserve the environment and enhance the means for doing so, including through the conservation of natural resources in their respective territories;

PRETECT their flexibility to safeguard the public welfare; and

RECOGNIZE the interest of the Central American Parties in strengthening and deepening their regional economic integration; and

CONTRIBUTE to hemispheric integration and provide an impetus toward the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas;

HAVE AGREED as follows: