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REF: NA/17/24 (46)

PRESS RELEASE

Parliamentary Staff and Immigration Officer from the Ministry of Immigration attended a Training Workshop on International Migration Law, in Guatemala City, Guatemala

--Tuesday, 8th October 2024 – **Ms. Mary August, Parliamentary Executive Assistant, National Assembly of Belize, and Mr. Ramon Reyes, Immigration Assistant I, Investigation Section, Ministry of Immigration** attended a training workshop on **International Migration Law** that was held in **Guatemala City, Guatemala**, from **1st to 4 October 2024**, by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Assemblies of Central America (FOPREL).

The workshop featured expert-led sessions on key topics, including the rights of migrants, climate migration, and regulatory frameworks addressing migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Notable speakers during the sessions included Gianna Sánchez, IOM's International Migration Law Specialist, alongside IOM representatives Efrain Guerrero and Monica Barrantes.

Participants engaged in discussions, practical case studies, and interactive activities aimed at enhancing their understanding and application of international migration standards.

On Friday, 4th October, FOPREL held its IV Meeting of the Advisory Council, which aimed at addressing crucial strategic issues for regional legislative cooperation. In accordance with FOPREL's Internal Regulations, the Advisory Council meets periodically to monitor progress, discuss emerging issues, and make recommendations that guide their collective actions and decisions. The session provided an opportunity to thoroughly review priority topics from the last meeting in March, where new projects were approved, and key guidelines were established for the current legislative period.

The agenda for the IV Meeting encompassed a thorough evaluation of progress achieved to date, alongside identifying new opportunities to enhance regional collaboration. This review has enabled effective planning for future actions, reinforcing the commitment to development and legislative integration.

Travel expenses for Ms. August and Mr. Reyes were made possible through the support of IOM and FOPREL. The delegation departed Belize on Tuesday, 1st October and returned in country on Saturday, 5th October 2024.

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