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PRESS RELEASE

Belize Supports Taiwan's Participation at the 76th World Health Assembly

Belmopan, January 27, 2023

The Government of Belize and the Ministry of Health & Wellness support the participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) at the 76th World Health Assembly as an observer.

The 152nd Executive Board meeting will be held on January 30, 2023, in a forum where all the member states of the Region of the Americas will review and discuss agenda items of particular interest to the region. The meeting will address current issues related to public health and will also provide regional member states with an overview of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taiwan is an indispensable partner committed to helping the world and has stood firm in its commitment to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the international community to jointly combat the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for future health emergencies. Belize continues to support Taiwan's participation in WHO meetings, activities, and mechanisms in order to make their contributions to the international community more effective.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Taiwan has assisted Belize and many other countries in their response efforts, through the donation of essential medical supplies and equipment, including surgical and N95 masks, protective gowns, and ventilators. Taiwan has continued to support the health system in Belize. On January 11, 2023, the governments of Belize and Taiwan signed a cooperation agreement for the construction of the San Pedro General Hospital and Taiwan handed over an additional 5,000 disposable non-surgical isolation gowns and 1,200 units of sanitizers. Belize, therefore, considers Taiwan's participation as an observer in WHA imperative.

The Government of Belize remains committed to the joint efforts led by the WHO and reiterates its support for the inclusion of Taiwan as an observer at the 76th WHA to help the fight against COVID-19, other emerging communicable diseases, and the sharing of genetic sequencing information, which is critical. Belize urges the WHO to include Taiwan in all health emergency-related meetings and mechanisms, such as the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence and the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS).

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