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PRESS RELEASE

BELIZE CONFERRED THE PRO-TEMPORE PRESIDENCY OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TOURISM MINISTERS (CCT) AT ITS CVIII ORDINARY MEETING

BELIZE CITY, June 28th, 2018 – Hon. Jose Manuel Heredia, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, led an official delegation on June 27th and June 28th, 2018 to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic to participate in the **CVIII Ordinary Meeting of the Central American Council of Tourism Ministers (C.C.T., for its Spanish equivalent)**, as well as the **XII Ordinary Meeting of the Central American Tourism Promotion Agency (C.A.T.A., for its Spanish equivalent)**.

At the CVIII Meeting of the CCT, Honourable Francisco Javier Garcia, Minister of Tourism of the Dominican Republic, and current President Pro-Tempore of the CCT provided a summary of achievements during their Pro-Tempore Presidency period of January to June 2018. Of note, has been the successful integration of the Dominican Republic as an official member of the CATA, and its work in promoting multi-destination travel within the Central American Region.

At the end of this CCT Ordinary Meeting, Honourable Francisco Javier Garcia led a ceremonial transfer of the Pro-Tempore Presidency for the CCT to Honourable Jose Manuel Heredia of Belize. As per protocol, under the Central American Integration System (S.I.C.A., *for its Spanish equivalent*) Belize takes over the Pro-Tempore Presidency of this regional organization and of its various arms, including the CCT, on July 1st, 2018.

Minister Heredia expressed that it is an honour to serve as President of the CCT, and President of the Board of Directors of CATA during the period July to December 2018. He committed to continue the excellent work that the Dominican Republic has engaged in during the first semester of 2018, and to work diligently in ensuring that the regional strategy for sustainable tourism development and multi-destination tourism remains a priority in the region of SICA.

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