



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE U.S. GUATEMALA BUSINESS COUNCIL
NEW INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR GUATEMALA**

Friday, April 20, 2018, Washington, DC – The U.S.-Guatemala Business Council (USG-BC) was officially launched this Wednesday in Washington, DC on Capitol Hill. Members of Congress, Congressional staff as well as U.S. Administration officials, representatives from Think Tanks and the U.S. and Guatemala’s business community attended to celebrate the new initiative.

"This official launch of the U.S.-Guatemala Business Council (USG-BC) on Capitol Hill marks an important shift by the private sector and its approach to working with U.S. policymakers. The Guatemalan business community coming together with its American colleagues shows that the private sector is committed to take a stronger leadership role in tackling important issues that are hindering economic growth in Guatemala. We are hopeful that this platform will bring together policymakers, business representatives, and civil society to work together in strengthening this important pillar of our bilateral relationship," said, Eric Stewart, U.S. Executive Director of the USG-BC.

The USG-BC is an effort to promote dialogue between U.S. entrepreneurs, policymakers, civil society and the Guatemalan private sector to help strengthen relations to promote economic growth, job creation, stronger institutions, and stability.

Guatemalan Executive Director, Edgar Villanueva said, " In Guatemala the private sector plays a major role in designing and supporting important nation building projects. We trust that the USG-BC will help accelerate the pace of transformation for the benefit of both of our nations. "

The bilateral business council will focus on working with the U.S. Government to address important issues that are considered bottlenecks to the economic growth of Guatemala and dedicate specific programming and efforts towards strengthening transparency and integrity, promoting business ethics and best practices, and creating opportunity for public-private partnerships.

For more information please visit www.usg-bc.org.