



### Press Release

Last week, the U.S. – Guatemala Business Council (USG-BC) joined the Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial chambers (CACIF) and AMCHAM Guatemala to participate in an event in Washington, DC to highlight ways in which Guatemala’s private sector can help prevent irregular migration to the United States. The event was hosted by the Ambassador of Guatemala to the United States of America, Manuel Espina, and attended by Members of the U.S. Congress and their staff.

During the event, the USG-BC and other participants discussed the private sector’s commitment to investing in Guatemala with attendees. There was also discussion about the challenges facing Guatemalan and U.S investments, and how these challenges can best be addressed, internally and with help from the U.S.

The Executive Director of the USG-BC, Edgar Villanueva, echoed sentiments of CACIF and AMCHAM leadership, reiterating the USG-BC membership’s commitment to “continue to invest in Guatemala and be a resource in finding solutions to challenges such as weak enforcement of the rule of law, private property disputes, and lack of infrastructure that hinder private sector investments and hamper its ability to produce more jobs”.

In addition to participating in the event hosted by Ambassador Espina, the USG-BC also visited with Members of Congress to discuss the how the U.S. has a role in addressing such challenges.

“The private sector has a primary interest in strengthening the capacity of Guatemala’s judicial institutions to uphold the rule of law. Recognizing the shared interests between the private sector and the U.S. government, and working together, is crucial to tackling issues like informality and corruption. There is broad consensus that the U.S. plays a vital role in these efforts and that the private sector is an important partner to work on issues and reforms, with clear metrics and deliverables, that can help spur job creation, reduce poverty and increase economic growth in Guatemala,” Villanueva continued.

Members of Congress recognize that Guatemala and other Northern Triangle countries must aggressively combat corruption and impunity and work to create a positive business climate that enforces the rule of law and respects due process. They understand that the private sector plays an important role in expanding economic opportunities to stem irregular migration and can be a valuable partner within the framework of the Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity and the Central American Engagement Strategy. The USG-BC looks forward to continuing to engage the U.S. administration and policy makers and shapers in an effort to work on these joint challenges.

Guatemala, May 23, 2019

The U.S. – Guatemala Business Council is an organization made up of private sector entities that serves as a platform for communication between the Guatemalan business sector, the U.S. business sector with investments in Guatemala and government, academia and non-governmental organization leaders in Washington, DC.