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Project: Belize's Public Awareness and Preparedness Campaign on the Question of Referring Guatemala's Claim to the ICJ - FAQ

1. Why do we have this project? In May 2017, the Belizean Government requested the assistance of the United Nations for its preparation for the referendum on whether to submit the border dispute with Guatemala to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

2. What is the referendum about? A long-standing border dispute between Belize and Guatemala. Much efforts to resolve the dispute through mediated dialogue resulted in a decision taken by both countries to consider the submission of the territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice.

3. What are the priority areas of the project? National strategic communication support to the referendum awareness campaign and support to a national registration process.

4. What are the expected outcomes of the project? To ensure that the people of Belize have greater access to objective information on the referendum, and the state has improved capacity to undertake an effective nationwide referendum on the issue of whether to submit the border dispute with Guatemala to the International Court of Justice.

5. What are the main activities of the project? (i) Sharing of comparative experiences on referenda via an international forum; (ii) Multi-stakeholder, inclusive discussion fora with different voices represented; iv) Support to the awareness campaign on voter registration and referendum on TV radio, social media (iii) Outreach to youth, women and other rural and marginalized voter populations.

6. How is the project implemented? The project is being implemented directly by UNDP Belize, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Elections & Boundaries Department of Belize.

7. What is the position of UNDP on the referendum? UNDP is strictly neutral on the issue of the referendum and its outcome.

8. What is the International Court of Justice (ICJ)? This is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, which settles legal disputes between member states and gives advisory opinions to authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.

9. Who are the main donors for this project? The Governments of the United Kingdom (£500,000); and the United States of America (\$250,000.00). UNDP is the sole recipient and administrator of these funds.

For more information on the project go to UNDP Belize at <http://www.bz.undp.org/>.
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