

Millenium Challenge Account- Belize ('MCA-Belize')

Meeting Minutes of Ordinary Board

September 2, 2025, scheduled for 9:00 am

1. **Calling of Meeting to Order:**

This regular meeting of the Board of Directors of MCA-Belize was called to order by Mr. Joseph Waight, the Chairman, at 9:12 am at the Offices of the Millennium Challenge Account- Belize located on the 5th Floor of the Atlantic Insurance Tower, 2 ½ Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize. Notice of the meeting was previously issued in accordance with the MCA-Belize bylaws to all members of the Board of Directors on August 19, 2025, together with the proposed agenda and relevant materials.

2. **Attendance**

The following members were present at the meeting:

- **Mr. Joseph Waight**- The Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment; Chairman; and voting member of the Board.
- **Mr. Carlos Pol**- Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for Economic Transformation and voting member of the Board.
- **Dr. Leroy Almendarez**- Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for Energy and voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Dian Maheia-Castillo**- Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for Education and voting Member of the Board.
- **Mr. Giacomo Sanchez**- member of the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry and, as such, a voting member of the Board.
- **Ms. Maria Zabaneh**- member of the Grant Aided Managing Authority of Schools (GAMAS) which has been identified as a civil society and, as such, a voting member of the Board.
- **Mrs. Nadia Caliz**- The President of the Belize National Teachers' Union and a voting member of the Board. *(Arrived at 9:46am due to traffic caused by an accident. Apology sent prior to start of meeting.)*
- **Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez**- Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for human development and non-voting member of the Board. *(Arrived at 10:02am due to traffic caused by an accident. Apology sent prior to start of meeting.)*
- **Mrs. Kareesh Archer**- member of Autism Belize which has been identified as an academic and educational organization and, as such, is a non-voting member of the Board.

- **Dr. Marcia Bouloy**- Executive Director of MCA-Belize and non-voting member of the Board.
- **Mr. Creig Kinch**- General Counsel of MCA-Belize, Secretary to the Board and non-voting member of the Board
- **Dr. John Wingle**- MCC Resident Country Director and Millennium Challenge Corporation ('MCC') Observer.
- **Ms. Rebeca Martinez** - MCC Associate Director, Education, and MCC Observer.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Joseph Waight proposed that the agenda for the meeting, which was circulated with the notice of the meeting, be adopted. The resolution was moved by Mrs. Dian Castillo-Maheia and was seconded by Mrs. Maria Zabaneh. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

4. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on March 6, 2025**

Mr. Joseph Waight proposed the adoption of a resolution to accept the previously circulated minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 6, 2025. The resolution was moved by Mrs. Dian Castillo-Maheia and was seconded by Mr. Carlos Pol. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

5. **Foreign Assistance Review Results & Resumption of the Compact**

Dr. John Wingle advised the Board of Directors that the result of the Foreign Assistance Review was positive for Belize. He further, stated that the Compact will continue, however, with a few modifications. Dr. Wingle indicated that following the review, the priority was to align the Compact with the United States of America's current foreign policy. He noted that as a result, there will be some shift in focus concerning the Compact. Dr. Wingle stated that regarding the Education Project, the focus will be on preparing a workforce that best meets the needs of American and Belizean businesses. He noted that as a result, activities 1 and 3 of the Education Project have been substantially retained, though with some possible modifications, while activity 2 will be eliminated. He further stated that the MCC will be rescinding its commitment to provide devices and equipment under activity 1 of the Education Project and that the Government of Belize may have to undertake the provision of devices if it wants to keep this element of the Education Project. Dr. Wingle further advised that the scope of the Energy Project will be widened beyond renewable energy and include energy from all sources. He noted that while the total funding being provided under the Compact to Belize remains unaffected, some of the funding previously allocated to activity 2 and the device component of Activity 1 of the Education Project will be reallocated to the Energy Project. He further stated that once the full extent of the modifications to

the Compact are known that the Compact will be amended. Dr. Wingle stated that the amendments to the Compact will most likely be to the annexes and would not affect the substantive terms of the Compact.

6. **Education Project Update**

In her update to the Board concerning the progress of the Education Project, Dr. Marcia Bouloy indicated that there has been extensive consultation between MCA-Belize, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the respective stakeholders including the Belize National Teachers' Union, the Belize Association of Principals of Secondary Schools, the relevant managing authorities, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the University of Belize. Dr. Bouloy confirmed that the draft National Student Assessment Policy had been completed and that the next step was for this policy to be adopted. She also indicated that the development of a 3,326-test items bank in Language Arts/English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, and Belizean Studies (where applicable) for Standards 1, 4, and 6 and Forms 1 and 2, in accordance with the national curriculum, had been completed. She further advised that the items bank items for Forms 3 and 4 were now to be completed. Dr. Bouloy also informed the Board that the design of a Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Strategy and Plan including a media campaign had been completed and the next step is for it to be launched. Dr. Bouloy also advised the Board that MCA- Belize was in the process of developing terms of reference for optional services during the base period under the contract with Ginger Sofreco/National Foundation for Education Research to support implementation of the National Student Assessment System. Dr. Bouloy informed the Board that MCA-Belize and MCC were in the process of reviewing the Program Partnership Solicitation to determine if the co-creation applicants who responded to the solicitation issued on 1 October 2024, but which was put on pause as a result of the Foreign Assistance Review were still interested in participating. These applicants were:

- College of Education Boise State University in association with Lumen Learning LLC
- Florida State University (Learning Systems Institute) in association with School-to-School International (STS)
- Partners of the Americas in association with University of Texas at Tyler, Valdosta State University, The N50 Project and Build Belize Inc
- Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International in association with Institute for Development Impact and Oklahoma State University

Once confirmation of continued interest is confirmed, MCA-Belize and MCC would move to the co-creation stage. Dr. Bouloy also advised the Board that Cabinet endorsed the National Policy for TVET on July 1, 2025. Dr. Bouloy further

indicated that the TVET Policy Advisor, engaged by MCA-Belize, was in the process completing the drafting instructions for a National TVET Act based on the policy and relevant Conditions Precedent. She indicated that the TVET Policy Advisor was also designing a National TVET Strategy which is to be based on the National TVET Policy and Act.

7. **Energy Project Update**

Dr. Leroy Almendarez provided the Board with an update on the Energy Project. He informed the Board that the Prime Minister commissioned a special committee to prepare two (2), five (5) and ten (10) year expansion plans for the Belize electricity sector. Dr. Almendarez informed the Board that this committee had 90 days from July 16, 2025, to present its plan to the Prime Minister. He noted that as part of the expansion plan, the Government of Belize is considering a proposal from Energy Transfer for the construction of 54MW LNG Power Plant. Dr. Almendarez informed the Board that an MOU was recently signed between the Government of Belize and Energy Transfer in furtherance of this proposal. Dr. Wingle noted that with the widening of the Compact scope beyond renewable energy, that the Energy Transfer proposed project can possibly be incorporated under the Compact. Dr. Almendarez further stated that the Government of Belize is also considering interconnectivity with Guatemala. Dr. Wingle indicated that a feasibility study should be conducted concerning the interconnectivity with Guatemala to ensure viability. Dr. Almendarez advised that MCC has reactivated the contract with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory which can do the cost modelling analysis through the Sienna modelling framework to see if the interconnection with Guatemala is economically feasible. Dr. Almendarez also stated that MCC has also reactivated the contract with WSP, Engineering. He noted that WSP is an advisory firm where one of their specialties is grid infrastructure and that WSP can potentially assist with the Belize-Guatemala interconnection. Dr. Almendarez also informed the Board that BEL has yet to conduct a financial evaluation of their Battery Energy Storage System. Dr. Almendarez advised the Board that there was some concern with the Santander proposal to substitute the biomass plant capacity with solar as it contradicts article 8 of the signed Compact agreement. Additionally, Dr. Almendarez informed the Board that Mr. Jean-Pierre Giroux who was the Managing Director- Energy Project with MCA-Belize had resigned during the Foreign Assistance Review pause. He indicated that Mr. Ryan Cobb, the Director of Energy with the Ministry of Energy will be acting as the interim Managing Director- Energy Project with MCA-Belize. He noted that the recruitment process was underway to hire a new Managing Director- Energy Project.

8. New Business (Any other business)

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Joseph Waight asked for a motion for the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was moved by Mrs. Nadia Caliz and was seconded by Mr. Giacomo Sanchez. The motion was unanimously passed by the voting members, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Minutes submitted by: Creig Kinch

Minutes approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CK', is written over the text 'Minutes approved by:'. The signature is stylized and cursive.