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## **SPECIAL DECLARATION 20: ON TRANSPARENCY AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN GUATEMALA**

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on January 25, 2017;

Recognizing the need to strengthen peaceful, just and inclusive societies that guarantee equal access to justice, which are based on respect for human rights, in an environment of effective Rule of Law and good governance at all levels, as well as in solid, transparent, efficient and accountable institutions, in accordance to what is established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Special Declaration 11 (4<sup>th</sup> CELAC Summit): on Transparency and the Fight Against Corruption.

We recognize the efforts undertaken by the Government of Guatemala in its fight against corruption and we commend its clear and firm position of not interfering in judicial proceedings, respect justice and the work of the Public Prosecutor's Office, and of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), as well as the impartiality of judges and the institutionality of the country, the justice system and the consolidation of democracy in Guatemala.

We exhort the Government of Guatemala to continue its efforts in strengthening its institutions based on the Rule of Law and the defense of human rights and to reinforce them, as well as congratulate the Government of Guatemala it for its compromise to combat impunity.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.