

# *First National Human Development Agreement*

## **For a Guatemala with more Solidarity:**

Nutrition, Education, and Training for every Guatemalan

The organizations that subscribe this First National Human Development Agreement make as our own the challenge to build a society that has more prosperity and more solidarity, is safer and more inclusive; we seek to provide a response to the low development levels in the country and to propound a sense of urgency to handle a challenge to reduce the poverty, exclusion, and marginalization conditions that a majority of the Guatemalan population suffers. The challenge is to join in a national strategy oriented to address the core issues to improve democratic coexistence, productive conditions, and development options in Guatemala, while, at the same time, resources are assigned to fight the precarious social conditions Guatemalans live. We want to take a step beyond, and lay on the table the non-negotiable issues for the future of the country, for which we all must provide something.

The decision is for everyone to make, it entails commitment and a clear objective. Participation and direction are needed; but above all, it implies a **clear definition of the country we desire**, including a monitoring scheme to ensure that this is more than a declaration of intent, and that commitments agreed upon can be monitored and evaluated. It is necessary to imagine a clear and concrete goal and head towards it; a goal where living conditions for Guatemalans, especially the most disadvantaged, are enriched through greater and better development opportunities.

We acknowledge that a better country cannot be built if **fundamental values for a society that promotes a culture of coexistence and confidence** are not practiced among its citizens, and between the population and its rulers. We must work to **build a strong social fabric**, in which we all must be willing to contribute for a country that allows every Guatemalan to be able to pursue better standards of living. Such an objective means strengthening strategic schemes for the public budgets of the country, as well as a greater commitment in the transparent assignation and execution of available resources in order to make more effective and inclusive public investments in the next years. In the same way, incentives and compliance with the valid legislation must be strengthened in the country.

With this goal in mind, FUNDESA, in the *Encuentro Nacional de Empresarios 2013* (National Entrepreneurs Meeting 2013), summoned the **representative national leaders from the four points of the compass**, to work in conjunction, for more than ten weeks, in 65 dialog groups to identify minimal agreements on Human Development that every Guatemalan must honor as their own by 2021, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of Guatemala and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the firm and lasting signature of the Peace Accords. This first effort shows the capability and disposition of Guatemalans to broaden and deepen work in favor of a society with greater development levels; it also recognizes that efforts are still needed to reach new and successive accords in the country for the near future, in fundamental matters as well as the constant update of present issues.

By means of these general agreements, the more than **1.000 strategically selected people** who back such agreements have committed to direct specific actions in order to build a better Guatemala; the following step would be the subscription of such actions by the political leaders of the country, who will be in charge of policy design, prioritization of agendas, reforms to current legislation, and resources assignation for their procurement. This **First National Human Development Agreement** aims to be a constructive joint working

experience among diverse citizen sectors, as well as an example for future social involvement instances, thus providing a relevant, concrete and certain sample that it is possible to generate commitment on the country we want to build.

► **Commitment No. 1: National Commitment in Favor of Childhood Nutrition**

We are committed to make **Chronic Malnutrition** cease being the main problem that affects the physical and mental development of Guatemalan children; we also commit to search with ambition and full determination an improvement of living conditions in every community in the country.

- 1.1 Guatemalans seek to achieve an annual 2% reduction on the Chronic Malnutrition rate in children under 5 years old, in order to reach 29% by 2021 (the value for 2011 was 49,8%). To achieve this commitment, intersectoral collaboration will be necessary among Municipalities, Development Councils, Central Government, Private Sector, and Civil Society to identify opportunities in order to start thinking on how to monitor, through social audit and satisfaction levels in population, differentiated advances in each municipality, not just as a national average.
- 1.2 On the area of implementing necessary actions to reduce Chronic Malnutrition in Guatemala, the **1.000-Day Window** must be the starting point; the roles for each institution must be presented in detail in an Operational Plan, by municipality, with the commitment to communicate this information on the language spoken in each community.
- 1.3 In addition to the **1.000-Day Window**, those actions that complement its implementation must be worked, before, during and after providing attention on the first level of health: reproductive education, surveillance systems for clean water consumption, greater connectivity in those communities without an access, and production and training schemes on self-sustainable development that generate income to the family heads. Additionally, strategies to boost food production in accordance with the advantages of every region in the country.
- 1.4 Throughout the following years, institutions members of the **Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional** (SINASAN, National Food and Nutrition Safety System) must be made responsible for their roles. In first instance, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare must be in charge of training, with cultural appropriateness, personnel in the first level of health care; the Ministry of Social Development must work on a local basis in the strengthening of community organization; municipalities must ensure to provide a safe water and basin conservation system; and the Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security must have a unified registry of the families assisted, with an updated census information system to follow-up the efforts to implement actions in the 1.000-Day Window and support actions in each community.

► **Commitment No. 2: National Commitment for Quality in Education**

We commit to have **Quality in Education** as a cross cutting matter in the coverage expansion process; to have it reflected in every education environment in Guatemala, by defining greater standards in the performance of educative centers, curricular relevance, teachers professional enhancement, intercultural interaction, training for life, schools infrastructure, school material, and pupil learning and competences acquired.

- 2.1 Educational establishments must have, by 2021, a minimum 75% of students pass 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics and reading tests, and 60% of students pass mathematics and reading tests both in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of secondary school and last year of *Diversificado* (equivalent to the last year in high-school. The *diversificado* stage in school may be equivalent to upper secondary school.), regardless of the career chosen (in Guatemala, students can choose to study in high-school different specialized areas, such as teaching, accounting, secretarial work, or a general degree in arts and sciences in order to attend university or to start working). Those establishments which already fulfill these standards must remain committed in order to prevent regressions.
- 2.2 The process for selecting teachers must be based on merit, looking for teachers who are prepared and competent in accordance with the demands of a globalized world. To accomplish this task, we must work in raising the requirements to apply for a job; these requirements must be based on competence, knowledge and intercultural preparation to generate knowledge that is useful for student's lives. Those teachers who already work in the system must continue with their professionalization process through the promotion of the continuous evaluation of their capacities and the remuneration and incentive mechanisms to dignify this profession.
- 2.3 The **National Evaluation System** must commit to perform periodic, continuous and comparable tests for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> year in Secondary and last year of high-school. This must come along with the proper disclosure of the mathematics and reading test results in every educational establishment.
- 2.4 Every educational establishment must comply with the school schedule and have 180 class days. To this we must add the continuous updating of local information systems to comply with this commitment, in the public as well as the private sectors, in every educational level, through the strengthening of community empowerment to monitor results by achieving greater parental participation.

► **Commitment No. 3: National Commitment to Train Young People**

We pledge to have the economic growth in the country come along with a greater generation of competences for young people, by providing support to their formative processes and their acquisition of tools, values and knowledge, in order for them to become globally competitive and responsible for their surroundings.

- 3.1 Transforming the *Diversificado* education by designing the Basic National Curriculum for each one of the careers authorized by the Ministry of Education. Existing careers, as well as the definition of competences and learning areas that every young person will acquire, must be reviewed. We also pledge to complement training with entrepreneurship programs and training for life, highlighting the importance of values of citizenship and those values required to build a better country. Our aim is to provide young

people with the best tools to tackle the demands of a globalized world; such tools can be knowledge to use new technologies, use of innovation benefits and learning new languages.

3.2 We pledge to work in favor of expanding the coverage, decentralizing the programs, and adapting training contents in accordance with the productive potential in every region of the country, favoring coordination between the productive sector and the **Instituto Técnico de Capacitación y Productividad** (INTECAP, Productivity and Technical Training Institution) to train entrepreneurs and to create support programs that complement this work with a greater training to affiliated and non-affiliated persons. We also commit to strengthen and create new technological institutions with the cooperation of the Guatemalan public and private sectors.

► **Commitment to comply, follow-up and monitor the First National Human Development Agreement in Guatemala.**

As a cross-cutting theme on this **First National Human Development Agreement**, we commit to follow-up any advances made in the consecution of the goals here stated. We also commit to identify those responsible in case of breach. We commit likewise to periodically inform the citizens on the strategies that will be implemented to have transparency in the investment for human development in Guatemala, in order for every governmental institution to fulfill its responsibilities and attributions.

To accomplish this item, we disclose to the public the commitment to incorporate in the short term a working instance of the highest standard, composed by the **Foro Permanente de Partidos Políticos** (Permanent Forum of Political Parties), the **Consejo Económico y Social** (Economic and Social Council), and civil society; **FUNDESA** will be the institution that will facilitate the follow-up to the topics contained in this agreement.

The final objective of the **First National Human Development Agreement** is to empower Guatemalans to be the engines for human development of our country, having the governmental institutions intervene only when needed, without undervaluing individual efforts in the context of his or her community. In order to address investment in human development, it is necessary that we know how to generate favorable conditions for self-sustainability that generate enough livelihoods to individuals and their families in order to attain high-quality satisfiers, thus contributing with their income to provide resources that improve their quality of life.

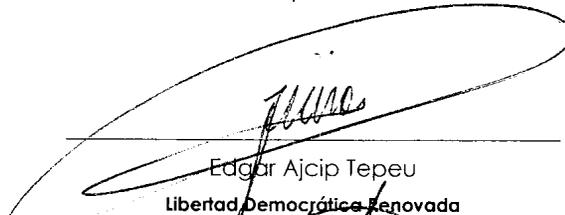
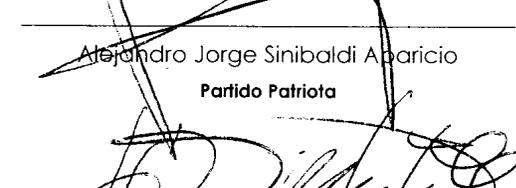
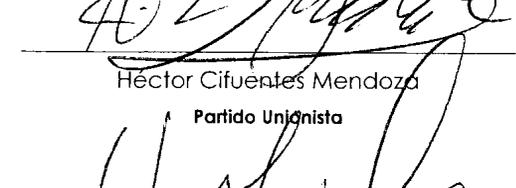
In addition, we would like to make an explicit acknowledgement to the great doses of effort, ingenuity, perseverance and creativity that Guatemalans who live in underdevelopment conditions show to deal with their situation; these efforts should allow these people to be capable of great achievements if they had the opportunities and the means to progress. For this reason, we make a call, as society, to work in favor of Human Development for everyone. This is why we consider as urgent the definition and agreement of the key issues that need to be a priority for the country, on the matter of respect to ideological opinions, partisan colors, association with trade unions, or ethnicity.

Living in peace does not imply the lack of divergent, even opposing, views on social, economic or political issues. Living in peace includes the resolution of these differences through participation, dialog and compliance of commitments.

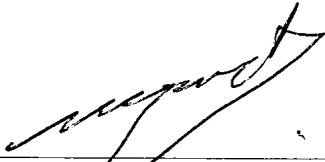
Building a prosperous and inclusive society means to make concrete efforts to achieve coexistence and cooperation spaces intended to help the social exchange, teamwork, and agreements, decisions and projects from mutual consent. This agreement calls for peaceful coexistence as a crucial factor to reach human development for Guatemalans. This can only be attained when people work together, taking the same path, recognizing their mutual capacities to improve everyone's living conditions.

The undersigned pledge to ensure compliance of this **First National Human Development Agreement**, and we are witnesses of the illustrious step necessary to build a better country.

Guatemala de la Asunción, October 10, 2013

 Roberto González Díaz Durán Compromiso, Renovación y Orden	 Nineth Varencá Montenegro Cottom Encuentro por Guatemala
 Jaime Antonio Martínez Leizaola Gran Alianza Nacional	 Edgar Ajcíp Tepeu Libertad Democrática Renovada
 Amilcar de Jesús Pop Ac Movimiento Político WINAQ	 Hugo Francisco Morán Tobar Partido de Avanzada Nacional
 Alejandro Jorge Sinibaldi Aparicio Partido Patriota	 Luis Fernando Pérez Martínez Partido Republicano Institucional
 Héctor Cifuentes Mendoza Partido Unionista	 Harold Osberto Caballeros López Partido Político Visión con Valores
 Felipe Alejos Lorenzana TODOS	 Sandra Julieta Torres Casanova Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza
 Sydney Shaw Arrivillaga Unión del Cambio Nacional	 Edgar Abraham Rivera Sagastume Victoria

## Witnesses of Honor



Emb. Manuel M<sup>o</sup> Lejarreta Lobo  
Embajada del Reino de España

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Emb. Arnold A. Chacón  
Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América



Emb. Michael Fröhling  
Embajada del Reino de Suecia

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Enc. de NN Renato Valdizola Aliaga  
Embajada de la República de Chile



Emb. Francisco José Sanclemente Molina  
Embajada de la República de Colombia



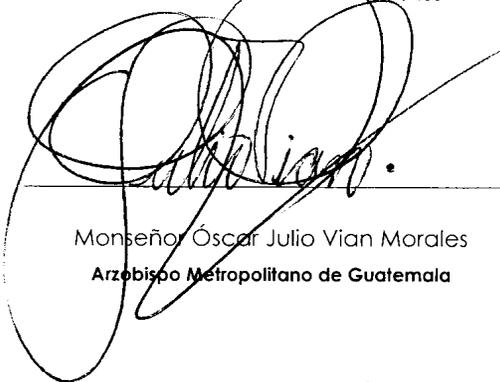
Emb. Carlos Tirado Zavala  
Embajada de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos



Jorge Eduardo De León Duque  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos



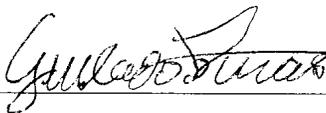
Carlos Estuardo Gálvez Barrios  
Rector Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala



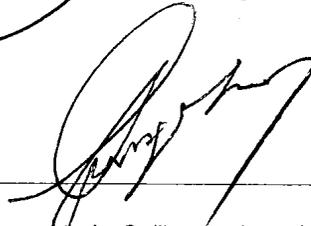
Monseñor Óscar Julio Vian Morales  
Arzobispo Metropolitano de Guatemala



Jorge René Morales Villatoro  
Presidente Alianza Evangélica de Guatemala



Gustavo Porras Castejón  
Consejo Económico y Social  
Presidente



Mario Guillermo González Flores  
Consejo Económico y Social  
Vicepresidente Sector Empresarial

## Witnesses of Honor



José David Morales Calderón  
Consejo Económico y Social  
Vicepresidente Sector Sindical



José Ángel López Campos  
Consejo Económico y Social  
Vicepresidente Sector Cooperativo



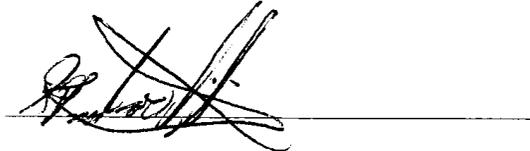
Celso Alfredo Nery Rufino  
Autoridad Garífuna



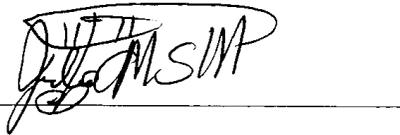
Alberto Marroquín García  
Autoridad Indígena y Ancestral - Pocomam



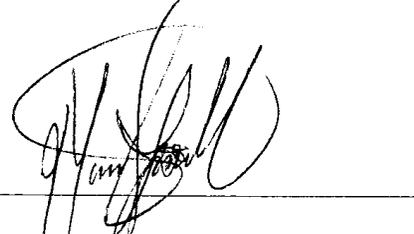
Julia María Chay Pérez  
Autoridad Indígena y Ancestral - Xinca



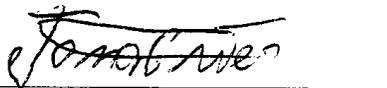
Rafael Calmo  
Autoridad Indígena y Ancestral - Huehuetenango



Julio Mendoza Mendoza  
Autoridad Indígena y Ancestral - Sololá



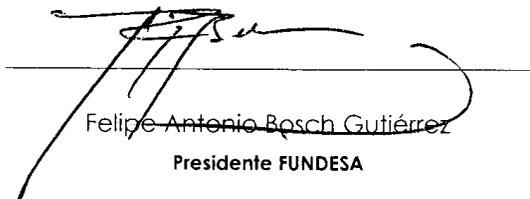
Marleny Isabel Macario  
Autoridad Indígena y Ancestral - Nahualá



Tomás Calvo Mateo  
Autoridad Indígena y Ancestral - Chichicastenango



José Santiago Molina Morán  
Presidente CACIF



Felipe Antonio Bosch Gutiérrez  
Presidente FUNDESA