

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the United States of America, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and the Republic of Panama in support of the Consultative Dialogue on Economic Growth and Supply Chain Partnerships**

The United States of America (the “United States”), the Republic of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and the Republic of Panama hereafter referred to collectively as “Participants” and individually as a “Participant”;

Recognizing that the Republic of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Panama, hereafter referred to as “ADD countries”) are founders of the Alliance for Development of Democracy (ADD);

Acknowledging that it is in the economic and national security interests of the United States and the ADD countries to ensure their supply chains are transparent, secure, sustainable, and diverse;

Further acknowledging that the United States and the ADD countries are committed to supply chains that protect intellectual property, promote internationally recognized labor rights, protect the environment, and combat the climate crisis;

Whereas it is in the economic and national security interests of the United States and the ADD countries to partner with like-minded nations that share democratic values and to demonstrate together that democracies can best provide for the economic and social well-being of their nationals;

And whereas the United States and the ADD countries share the common values of respect for the rule of law, the separation of powers and judicial independence, compliance with international commitments, and strengthening transparency and the fight against corruption;

Noting that the United States and the ADD countries recognize the importance of pursuing sustainable and inclusive economic development in line with democratic values in the four countries and in the region, in order to realize a strong recovery from the consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis;

Acknowledging that it is in the national security interest of the United States and the ADD countries that states of the Caribbean Basin enjoy democratic political stability and sustainable economic prosperity;

Have hereby decided to develop a Joint Consultative Dialogue on Supply Chain Partnerships, with participation from the public and private sectors.

## **Section 1 – Purpose**

The purpose of this Joint Consultative Dialogue is as follows:

- 1) To underscore that it is in the interests of the signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote transparent, secure, sustainable, and diverse supply chains.
- 2) To highlight that well-designed public policy tools can help foster private investment that strengthens supply chain resilience with one another and with like-minded partners.
- 3) To jointly identify public policy tools to advance the shared goals of supply chain resilience and mutually beneficial investment and trade flows among the Participants. Such public policy tools may include: international policy coordination in areas pertinent to those related to this MOU; appropriate market-based incentives; research and development; workforce development; standardization; good regulatory practices and convergence; and capacity building and technical assistance. More generally, the Participants intend to identify elements of their international competitiveness that can best support the purposes of this MOU. Once identified, they may seek support of relevant multilateral development banks to provide technical and financial assistance to advance necessary improvements.
- 4) To identify opportunities to strengthen supply chain resilience.
- 5) To discuss the possibility of engaging with international development finance institutions, to assist ADD economies in creating business ecosystems favorable to supply chain investments and commerce.

## **Section 2 - Periodicity of Meetings**

- 1) Senior officials of the governments of the Participants are expected to participate in the Joint Consultative Dialogue as authorized by their governments and consistent with the issues to be discussed. The Joint Consultative Dialogue is expected to also convene high-level business leaders, worker organizations, and civil society from the participating countries as appropriate, including through the U.S.-ADD Business Council.
- 2) The Joint Consultative Dialogue is expected to meet regularly and as needed, except if decided otherwise by the participating governments.

**Section 3 – Modifications**

The Participants may modify this MOU at any time by mutual written decision.

**Section 4 – Operation, Discontinuation and Legal Effect**

1. This MOU becomes operative on the date of signature. The Participants may discontinue this MOU by mutual decision. Alternatively, either Participant may discontinue its participation in this MOU at any time. A Participant that intends to discontinue this MOU should endeavor to provide thirty (30) days’ written notice of its intent to do so.
2. This MOU is not an international agreement and does not give rise to rights or obligations under international law.

Signed, at Washington on July 25, 2022, in four originals, in the English and Spanish languages.

For the United States of America:

For the Republic of Costa Rica:

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Jose Fernandez  
Under Secretary of State for Economic  
Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manuel Tovar  
Minister of Trade,  
Costa Rica

For the Dominican Republic:

For Panama:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Bisoño, Minister of Industry  
Commerce & SME's,  
Dominican Republic

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Ramón Martínez de la Guardia  
Ambassador