

LETTER OF INTENT IN FURTHERANCE OF COOPERATION

The Department of Homeland Security of the United States of America and the Minister of Justice and Public Security of El Salvador (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”),

RECOGNIZING that coordination and collaboration between the Governments of the United States and El Salvador have increased to new, unprecedented levels, and the Participants seek, within this context of intensified cooperation, to explore bilateral initiatives for the benefits of each country.

ACKNOWLEDGING the respective roles each Participant plays in mitigating migration flows from and through Central America.

The Participants INTEND to work collaboratively and cooperatively, in accordance with their respective national laws and regulations, on the following goals to be pursued without delay:

1. Support to Border Security and Law Enforcement: Enhance cooperation to strengthen immigration enforcement with the purpose of impeding irregular migration flows from and through Central America by augmenting border security and supporting criminal investigations targeting gangs, human smuggling, and trafficking networks and providing technical support to El Salvador’s efforts to establish repatriation capacity.
2. Information sharing: Supporting El Salvador’s efforts to end forced migration, coordinate the use and implementation of a Biometric Data Sharing Program that will allow the United States and El Salvador to automatically exchange in real-time biometric and biographical information on third-country nationals attempting to enter their territory. The program is a critical tool in advancing shared law enforcement and irregular migration management priorities.
3. Building Asylum and Protection Capacity: Recognizing El Salvador’s decision to join the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (MIRPS) and using best practices developed by international organizations and the United States, the Participants intend to seek to collaborate on building protection capacity and increase protection options for vulnerable populations. We will work together to enhance the integrity of both of our immigration systems to ensure vulnerable populations are not victimized by smugglers and build asylum capacity through our partnership.
4. Both participants commit to ongoing dialogue on viable and legal alternatives for Salvadorans in the United States, including current mechanisms, and to work together to address expanding legal immigration from El Salvador to support U.S. business interests, reducing non-tariff trade barriers to promote foreign direct investment, trade facilitation, and customs enhancement.

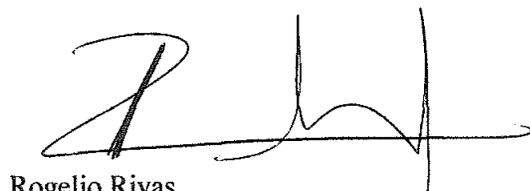
Signed at San Salvador on August 28, 2019, in the English and Spanish languages, being both versions equally valid.



Kevin K. McAleenan
Acting Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States



Alexandra Hill Tinoco
Minister of Foreign Affairs, El Salvador



Rogelio Rivas
Minister of Justice and Public Security, El Salvador