

13 December 2019

The Honourable Dr. Said Musa
Former Prime Minister of Belize
Co-Chair, Coalition of Caribbean
Leaders for Peace
c/o Musa and Balderamos LLP
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Belize City
BELIZE

Dear Dr. Musa

Thank you for your letter of 18 October 2019, which I have read with much interest.

As you correctly recall, it was the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) who, at their Second Summit in Havana, Cuba on 28 and 29 January 2014, issued the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. That document declared *'Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, based on respect for the principles and rules of International Law, including the international instruments to which Member States are a party to, and the Principles and Purposes of the United Nations Charter'*. The Proclamation went on to record their *'permanent commitment to solve disputes through peaceful means with the aim of uprooting forever the threat or use of force in our region'*.

Like the Coalition of Caribbean leaders which you Co-Chair, the Community, at the level of the Conference of Heads of Government and through the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), continues to review the international political landscape and accordingly articulate positions which promote our interests and align these with other like-minded groups of States.

It is against this background that I have undertaken a preliminary analysis of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War and note that it is anchored in the principles of international law, the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, and other internationally recognised principles and Conventions, to which our Member States already subscribe. With the foregoing in mind and as we await the establishment of the legal framework for the Declaration, I shall remit the document to the COFCOR for a determination to be made as to how best CARICOM can become associated with it.

Yours sincerely



IRWIN LAROCQUE
SECRETARY-GENERAL