

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

# EL SALVADOR



UNITED NATIONS



**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

**Investment Policy Review**

**El Salvador**



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Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the totals because of rounding.

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## Preface

The UNCTAD *Investment Policy Reviews* are intended to help countries improve their investment policies and to familiarize governments and the international private sector with an individual country's investment environment. The reviews are considered by the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development.

The *Investment Policy Review of El Salvador*, initiated at the request of the Salvadorean Government, was carried out by means of a fact-finding mission in May 2009, and is based on information current at that date. The mission received the full cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, in particular El Salvador's investment promotion agency, PROESA. The mission also had the benefit of the views of the private sector, both foreign and domestic, and of the resident international community, particularly bilateral donors and development agencies. This draft was discussed with stakeholders at a national workshop in San Salvador on 17 February 2010.

The suitability and effectiveness of the regulatory regime is assessed against several related criteria: (a) whether regulations adequately promote and protect the public interest; (b) whether regulations adequately promote investment and sustainable socio-economic development; and (c) whether the methods employed are effective and well administered, given their public interest and development objectives and the legitimate concerns of investors that rules and procedures should not unduly burden their competitiveness. International practices are taken into account in making the assessments and recommendations in this report.

This report was prepared by the Investment Policy Reviews section, under the direction of Chantal Dupasquier and the supervision of James Zhan. It was drafted by Quentin Dupriez, Rory Allan, Hans Baumgarten and Lizzie Medrano. Irina Stanyukova provided statistical assistance. The report benefited from comments and suggestions from UNCTAD colleagues, under a peer-review process. It was edited by Daniel Sanderson.

It is hoped that the analysis and recommendations in this review will help El Salvador achieve its development goals, contribute to improved policies, promote dialogue among stakeholders, and catalyse investment and the beneficial impact of foreign direct investment.

Geneva, April 2010



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