

**No. 48213**

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**Mexico  
and  
Belize**

**Protection and Restitution of Archaeological, Artistic and Historic Monuments Agreement  
between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of Belize.  
Belmopan, 20 September 1991**

**Entry into force:** *11 January 1996 by notification, in accordance with article VII*

**Authentic texts:** *English and Spanish*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Mexico, 6 January 2011*

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**Mexique  
et  
Belize**

**Accord relatif à la protection et à la restitution des monuments archéologiques, artistiques et  
historiques entre le Gouvernement des États-Unis du Mexique et le Gouvernement du  
Belize. Belmopan, 20 septembre 1991**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *11 janvier 1996 par notification, conformément à l'article VII*

**Textes authentiques :** *anglais et espagnol*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Mexique, 6 janvier 2011*

[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

**PROTECTION AND RESTITUTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARTISTIC AND  
HISTORIC MONUMENTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED  
MEXICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**

The Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of Belize, desiring to encourage the study and reciprocal knowledge of the archaeological, artistic and historic values of both countries and to establish regulations for the protection, recovery and restitution of cultural objects belonging to their respective national heritages removed from one of the Parties or illegally exported from their territory, have agreed the following:

**ARTICLE I**

Both Parties undertake to prohibit and impede the entry into their respective territories of archaeological, artistic and historic items removed from museums, monuments, collections or archaeological sites of the other Party and those whose exportation has not been expressly authorized by the Government of the country of origin.

## ARTICLE II

Subject to their respective laws, both Parties agree to take, upon the request of the Other, all possible measures to recover and return the archaeological, artistic and historic items removed or illegally exported from the territory of the Requesting Party. The Requesting Party will provide the documentation and the necessary evidence to establish the legal basis for their claim. In those situations in which it is not possible to gather and offer the before-mentioned documentation, the legal basis for the claim will be determined according to the arrangements that both Parties establish through diplomatic channels.

## ARTICLE III

The expenses incurred in the recovery and return referred to in Article II will be defrayed by the Requesting Party. The Requesting Party shall not be obligated to indemnify the person who illegally exported or the one who acquired the object.

#### ARTICLE IV

Both Parties agree that the Requesting Country will apply the national legislation in force by means of the competent authority to those who within their territory shall have participated in the extraction or illegal exportation of archaeological, artistic or historic items.

#### ARTICLE V

Both Parties agree to exempt from custom duties and local taxes all archaeological and artistic items recovered and returned by virtue of the present Agreement.

#### ARTICLE VI

Subject to their respective laws, both Parties agree that for the purposes of this Agreement, the archaeological items are defined as real and personal property the product of cultures prior to the settlement of the Spaniards and British in the territory of the United Mexican States and Belize, respectively, as well as the human remains, flora and fauna related to those cultures; the artistic items are defined as those national works of each Party having a relevant aesthetic value; and as historic items, those items linked to the history of each nation that date

from the establishment of the Hispanic and British Cultures in each of the countries. These definitions will be applied in conformity with the respective legislation in force in each country. In case of any doubt, it will be clarified through diplomatic channels.

#### ARTICLE VII

The present Agreement will become effective on the date on which the Parties notify each other that they have complied with their respective constitutional requirements.

#### ARTICLE VIII

The present Agreement may be modified by the mutual consent of the Parties, or upon the request of either of them. The modifications will become effective on the date on which the Parties notify each other that they have complied with their respective constitutional requirements.