



SPECPOL STUDY GUIDE

TEDMUN

20

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ANKARA
TED ANKARA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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1. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear participants of TEDMUN 2024,

My words could not start without a quote that enlightens and motivates the whole spirit of this conference: “Peace in home, peace in world.” Although Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is known to be a great military commander and a brilliant government man, he was unique. At that time, while most of the leaders had rather aggressive views regarding the importance of International Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk knew that the future of the modern world and a future modern Türkiye must be tenant to diplomacy. It must be reminded that, our hearths and opinions lie within his words, and this conference is assembled through his enlightenment.

TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has assembled 9 conferences since 2014, and this year we are proud to be the part of the 10th TEDMUN Conference. Becoming a part of the PDC, being an MUN’er and organizing TEDMUN at the end of the 11th grade has turned into a long-lasting tradition of every TED Ankara College member. We are proud to be a part of this long-lasting tradition and glorifying our club. The TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has a rich history of fostering such principles, organizing conferences that serve as platforms for meaningful discourse and collaboration. As we continue this tradition with the 10th TEDMUN Conference, we stand as proud torchbearers of our club's legacy, committed to upholding the values of diplomacy, mutual respect, and cooperation.

For each of us, participating in Model United Nations represents more than just a simulation; it is an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, to forge connections, and to contribute to the collective pursuit of peace and prosperity. As Secretary-General, I am



deeply inspired by the dedication and passion that each of you brings to this conference. I hope the best for your contributions to the Model United Nations, and I wish you to enlighten yourselves by recovering the embedded solutions in each conflict. In my opinion, your youth and perspectives will make this conference shine like the North Star in the Arctic.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remember the words of Atatürk and the legacy of TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club. Let us approach our deliberations with open minds, empathy, and a shared commitment to building a better world. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will not only honour our advisors but also reaffirm our belief in the power of diplomacy to transcend borders and unite humanity.

With warm regards,

Buğra Ermihan

Secretary-General of TEDMUN 2024



2. Letter from the President Chair

My name is Timur Levent Saraç, your president chair for SPECPOL. I don't usually do letters or anything to stroke my pride because I don't think the creators of the committee deserve to be under the spotlight. What matters for me, the conference, and the committee, is the delegates because, without them, there would be no reason for both. You don't really need to know much about me either, seeing that you're somewhat stuck with me as your President Chair, but I can reassure you I won't let you down. The same goes for your Vice Chair, Çınar, who is more than qualified to fulfill his appointed duty. Please feel free to reach out to me through my personal email, timursarac06@gmail.com, if you have any questions.



3. Letter from the Vice Chair

Esteemed Delegates,

I am Çınar Mehmet Erduran, one of your vice chairs. I warmly welcome you to TEDMUN'24 and hope that you will have an enchanting experience. I would like to thank the Executive Team, the Organization Team, my beloved friend Timur Levent Saraç, who has helped me a lot through my MUN journey, and finally, all of the delegates participating in this prestigious conference because it has been thought to me by someone I look up to for his deeds in MUN, "What makes a conference good or bad isn't the academic or the organization team, it is the delegates.". This committee is really special to me because my first experience was with a SPECPOL committee, and now I have the chance to chair one. Before concluding this letter, I must say that both Timur and I have put lots of effort into preparing this guide, so we highly suggest you read it since it covers the topic well. Finally, I once again wish you an amazing conference, one in which you'll both have fun and learn new things to further your MUN journey.

Sincerely,

Çınar Mehmet ERDURAN, Vice Chair



4. Introductions

3.1 Introduction to the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) is a diplomatic and political international organization whose stated purposes are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and serve as a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. It is the world's largest international organization. The UN is headquartered in New York City (in the United States, but with certain extraterritorial privileges) and also has other office locations such as Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna.

The UN was established after World War II with the aim of preventing future world wars, and succeeded the League of Nations, which was characterized as ineffective. On 25 April 1945, 50 nations met in San Francisco, California, for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on 25 June 1945. The charter took effect on 24 October 1945, when the UN began operations. The UN's objectives, as defined by its charter, include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; as of 2023, it has 193 – almost all of the world's sovereign states.

The UN's mission to preserve world peace was complicated in its early decades due in part to Cold War tensions that existed between the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies. Its mission has included the provision of primarily unarmed military observers, and lightly armed troops charged with primarily monitoring, reporting, and confidence-building roles. UN membership grew significantly following widespread



decolonization in the 1960s. Since then, 80 former colonies have gained independence, including 11 trust territories that had been monitored by the Trusteeship Council. By the 1970s, the UN's budget for economic and social development programs vastly exceeded its spending on peacekeeping. After the end of the Cold War in 1991, the UN shifted and expanded its field operations, undertaking a wide variety of complex tasks.

The UN has six principal operational organizations: the General Assembly (which includes SPECPOL), the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the UN Secretariat, and the Trusteeship Council, although the Trusteeship Council has been inactive since 1994. The UN System includes a multitude of specialized agencies, funds, and programs, including the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, UNESCO, and UNICEF. Additionally, non-governmental organizations may be granted consultative status with UN agencies.

The UN's chief administrative officer is the secretary-general, currently Portuguese politician and diplomat António Guterres, who began his first five-year term on 1 January 2017 and was re-elected on 8 June 2021. The organization is financed by assessed and voluntary contributions from its member states.

3.2 Introduction to SPECPOL

The United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee (also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee or SPECPOL or C4) is one of six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. It deals with a diverse set of political issues, including UN peacekeeping and peaceful uses of outer space.



Today, SPECPOL's scope has expanded well beyond decolonization to include a wide range of political concerns and conflicts confronting the international community. The committee is responsible for resolving issues such as sovereignty disputes, regional wars, peacekeeping operations, and the promotion of democratic governance and political stability.

All 193 member states of the UN can attend its meetings.

3.3 Introduction to the Agenda

Central America is a subregion of North America. Its political boundaries are defined as bordering Mexico to the north, Colombia to the south, the Caribbean Sea to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Central America is defined as consisting of seven countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

The presence of foreign companies can make or break the political and economic foreground of countries and/or regions. Central America is a key geopolitical zone, and its countries are critical for many trade routes, economic alliances, and trade agreements. With the participation of these important countries in the world economy, Central American countries are bound to attract direct and corporate foreign investment.

It is the responsibility of SPECPOL and this specially united committee to decide the extent of foreign companies' jurisdiction in their respective countries, the rules and laws they will abide by, and to create the framework that will allow the symbiotic relationship between domestic companies, foreign companies, and governments.



5. Historical Background

4.1 Presence of foreign companies in Central America

The countries of Central America had various years of economic liberation due to their political history of colonization and changes of political agenda together with economic policies. Central America's strategic location, proximity to major markets such as the United States, and relatively low labor costs made it an attractive destination for foreign companies.

Belize

Belize, formerly named British Honduras, gained independence from the United Kingdom on September 12, 1981. After gaining independence, Belize slowly but gradually opened up to foreign companies and investment. Foreign companies invested in many fields, focusing on tourism infrastructure and agriculture. The government of Belize supports foreign investment through tax breaks and streamlined regulations while also putting importance on supporting its domestic economy.

Costa Rica

Although Costa Rica was open to foreign investment before, it really started trying to attract foreign investment during the mid-20th century. Most notably, the Foreign Investment Law in 1982 supported Costa Rica's opening to foreign markets substantially. This law aimed to liberalize the country's economy and create a more favorable environment for foreign



companies to establish operations in Costa Rica. It provided incentives such as tax breaks, import duty exemptions, and other benefits to foreign investors.

El Salvador

El Salvador's opening to foreign markets can be recorded by the economic reforms made after the end of its civil war in 1992. In 1991, El Salvador enacted the Law on Investment Promotion, which provided incentives and guarantees to both domestic and foreign investors.

Guatemala

Until the 1980's, Guatemala's economy was relatively closed to foreign investment. This changed with the economic reforms they made after World War II. In 1989, Guatemala enacted the Law on the Promotion and Protection of Investment, allowing potential investors easier access to investment.

Honduras

Honduras began opening up to foreign companies and investment in the mid-20th century. It opened up to foreign investors significantly with the enactment of its Investment Promotion Law in 1990.



Nicaragua

Prior to its Sandinista Revolution of 1979, Nicaragua was not very open to foreign companies and investment. Following the end of the Sandinista government in 1990, Nicaragua embarked on a path of economic liberalization and market-oriented reforms, notably enacting the Foreign Investment Law in 1992.

Panama

Most notably, Panama's opening up to foreign markets would be the construction of the Panama Canal, which was completed in 1914. The canal became a critical point in trade, becoming the point connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Panama also implemented many economic reforms during the late 20th and early 21st century, capitalizing on the traffic it gained from its canal. To this day, Panama remains one of the most liberal and competitive markets of Central America.

4.2 Impact of colonialism and imperialism on the region's economies and politics

As Central America was a land rich with raw materials, imperialist forces did at one time occupy all Central American countries to exploit their labor force and, at the time, weak governments. These imperialists left socio-economic scars on the countries, with effects that are still visible and felt today.



The colonial powers of the time, primarily Spain and later Britain, extracted vast amounts of raw materials and natural resources from Central American grounds, such as gold, silver, coffee, bananas, and other agricultural products. This exploitation led to the impoverishment of the indigenous peoples and the concentration of wealth and power in the colonial occupants. The legacy of this economic exploitation continues in some regions of Central America.

Under colonial rule, Central America and its economy were heavily structured for the exportation of low-yield natural resources such as agricultural and mining products. The region's reliance on monoculture and cash crops, such as coffee and bananas, made it subject to global commodity prices and market swings. Even after attaining independence, Central American countries remained largely reliant on export sectors, which frequently inhibited diversification and sustainable growth.

Colonialism brought many social and cultural changes to the Central American region. It spread Christianity, European languages, and colonial institutions. Many Central American traditions and cultures were assimilated and lost during colonial occupation.

6. Economic and Political Impact

Foreign companies and foreign direct investment (FDI) can have many effects on a country's economy.



5.1 Effects of foreign companies on employment, wages, and labor rights

Foreign companies operating in countries can create many job opportunities. In 2002, 700 firms, 98 percent of which were multinational corporations, accounted for 46 percent of the world's total R&D expenditure and 69 percent of the world's business R&D. In 2014, foreign companies created nearly 1.4 million new jobs.

In some cases, foreign-owned enterprises may offer higher wages and better working conditions compared to local businesses, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and services. However, there are also instances where foreign companies may engage in practices such as outsourcing, subcontracting, or informal employment, which can lead to lower wages and precarious working conditions for workers.

Foreign companies can also impact labor rights in their respective countries. There have been instances of anti-union activities being displayed by multinational corporations and also loophole exploitations.

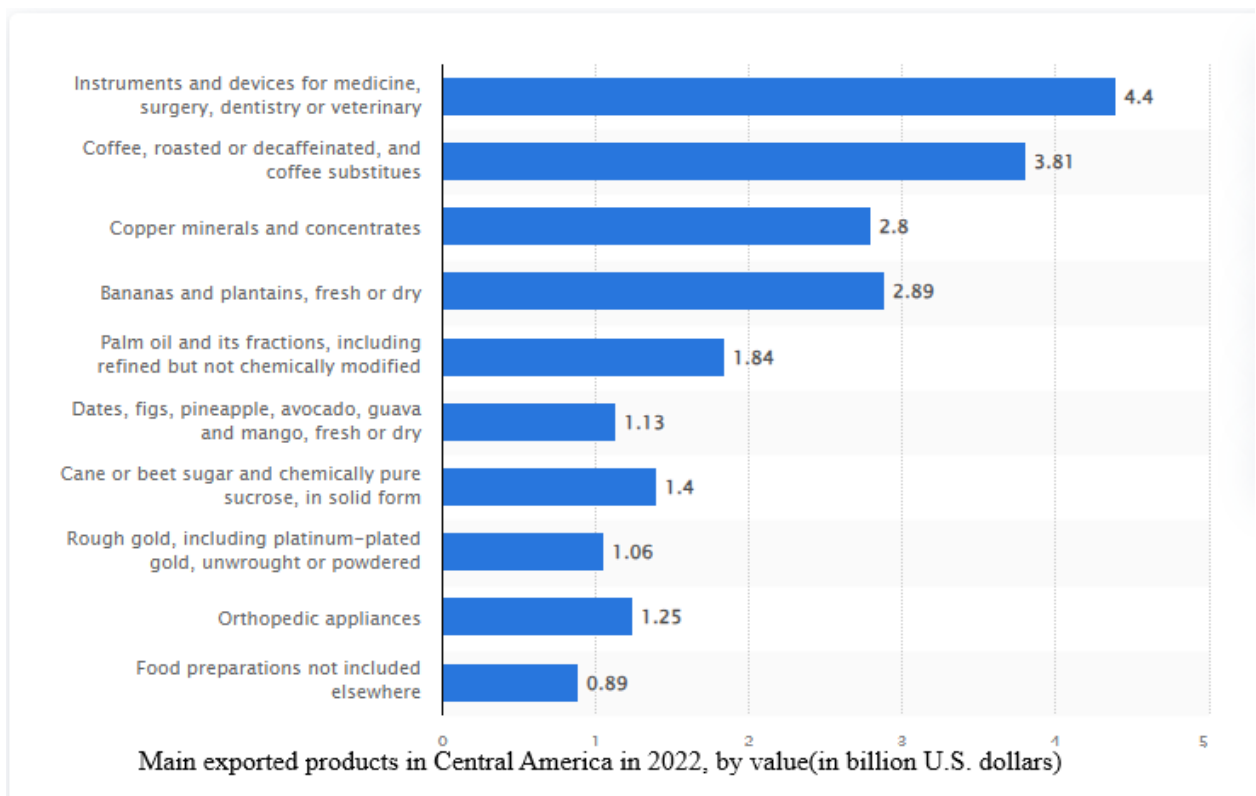
5.2 Contribution to economic growth and development

Opening markets to foreign direct investment has mostly shown a positive incline in their gross domestic product (GDP). This comes in many forms. In Central America, this mainly resulted in investment inflows that led to huge budget surpluses. A budget surplus is made when the amount of money flowing out in an economy is lower than the amount of money flowing in. With a budget surplus, governments are more free to make investments and



subsidize their problematic industries, create infrastructure for up-and-coming businesses, and improve the welfare of citizens. For example, in 2021, Panama received 3.5 billion USD in FDI from the U.S. alone.

Job creation, technology transfer, and innovation from more advanced countries, as well as the expansion of exports and imports, development of national infrastructure, government revenue, and population skill development, can also be mentioned as indirect improvements brought together with FDI and multinational corporations.



5.3 Influence on local industries and markets

Competition and Market Dynamics

Foreign companies introduce increased competition into Central America's local markets, which can drive efficiency, innovation, and product quality. By offering consumers a wider



range of choices and higher-quality products and services, foreign companies can stimulate demand and encourage local industries to improve their offerings to remain competitive.

Technology Transfer and Innovation

Foreign companies often bring advanced technologies, management practices, and industry expertise to Central America, which can benefit local industries by facilitating technology transfer and knowledge spillovers. Through partnerships, collaborations, and supplier relationships, local firms may gain access to new technologies and skills that enhance their productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness in domestic and international markets.

Supply Chain Integration

Foreign companies operating in Central America often integrate local suppliers and producers into their global supply chains, providing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access larger markets and expand their business opportunities. By becoming part of global value chains, local firms can benefit from economies of scale, access to new customers, and opportunities for skills development and capacity building.

Investment and Capacity Building

Foreign companies may invest in local industries through joint ventures, partnerships, or acquisitions, which can help strengthen the capabilities and capacities of domestic firms. By providing capital, expertise, and market access, foreign companies support the growth and expansion of local industries, enabling them to compete more effectively in regional and global markets.



Labor Market Dynamics

Foreign companies create job opportunities for local workers in Central America, contributing to employment generation and poverty reduction. However, they may also influence labor market dynamics by setting wage standards, employment practices, and working conditions that can impact local industries and workers. Additionally, foreign companies may face challenges related to labor shortages, skills gaps, and workforce mobility in Central America, which can affect their operations and competitiveness.

Regulatory and Policy Environment

Foreign companies operating in Central America are subject to local regulations, policies, and legal frameworks, which can influence their business strategies, investment decisions, and market behavior. Government policies related to taxation, trade, investment, intellectual property rights, and environmental regulations can shape the operating environment for foreign companies and impact their interactions with local industries and markets.

5.4 Role of foreign companies in shaping government policies and regulations

Having a big stake and effect on the capital flow and economy of a country allows certain political power and say in governance.

Lobbying and Advocacy



Foreign companies often engage in lobbying and advocacy efforts to influence government policies and regulations that affect their business interests. This may involve direct communication with policymakers, participation in industry associations, and support for political campaigns and initiatives that align with their objectives. By leveraging their resources, expertise, and networks, foreign companies can effectively advocate for policy changes that benefit their business operations in Central America.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Foreign companies may form partnerships and collaborations with government agencies, policymakers, and local stakeholders to address shared challenges and promote common interests. These partnerships can take various forms, including public-private partnerships (PPPs), joint initiatives, and advisory committees, through which foreign companies can provide input and expertise to inform policy decisions and regulatory frameworks.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

Foreign companies often implement CSR initiatives in Central America as part of their business operations, which can influence government policies and regulations in areas such as environmental protection, labor rights, and community development. By demonstrating corporate citizenship and commitment to sustainable development, foreign companies may encourage governments to enact policies that support responsible business practices and address social and environmental concerns.

Investment Incentives and Negotiations



Foreign companies may negotiate with governments to obtain investment incentives, tax breaks, regulatory exemptions, and other concessions that facilitate their business activities in Central America. These negotiations can influence government policies and regulations related to investment promotion, trade facilitation, and economic development as governments seek to attract foreign investment and stimulate economic growth.

Trade and Investment Agreements

Foreign companies operating in Central America may advocate for trade and investment agreements between their home countries and host countries, which can influence government policies and regulations related to trade, investment, and market access. These agreements may include provisions on intellectual property rights, investor protections, dispute resolution mechanisms, and regulatory harmonization, which can shape the operating environment for foreign companies and impact local industries and markets.

Compliance and Regulatory Standards

Foreign companies operating in Central America are subject to local regulations, standards, and compliance requirements, which can influence their business practices and operations. By complying with regulatory standards and demonstrating best practices, foreign companies may influence government policies and regulations by setting industry benchmarks and promoting voluntary compliance with higher standards of corporate governance, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.



7. Country Profiles and Regional Dynamics

6.1 Central American Country Profiles

6.1.1 Belize

Belize is situated on the eastern coast of Central America, bordered by Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the west and south, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. Its economy is characterized by a mix of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and services. Tourism is a key driver of Belize's economy, accounting for over 40% of GDP and supporting thousands of jobs in the hospitality, transportation, and entertainment sectors. It aims to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030, as outlined in its National Energy Policy, offering incentives for investment in renewable energy generation and efficiency measures. Belize benefits from preferential access to markets through trade agreements such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) with the United States.

Belize has been making steady progress in making itself more inviting to FDI, but it still needs improvement in some areas. For example, according to the World Bank, Belize's infrastructure quality ranks below the global average, with particular weaknesses in road quality and electricity supply reliability. Also, it has struggled with high levels of crime, particularly in urban areas such as Belize City, where gang-related violence is a significant concern. The country's homicide rate is among the highest in Central America.



6.1.2 Costa Rica

Costa Rica, nestled in Central America between Nicaragua and Panama, has become a hub for foreign investment and business opportunities. Its stable political environment, educated workforce, and commitment to sustainability make it an attractive destination for foreign companies. According to the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE), the technology and innovation sector accounted for over 45% of total FDI inflows in 2020, reflecting the growing importance of this industry. Costa Rica aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and has made significant investments in renewable energy infrastructure, with over 99% of its electricity generated from renewable sources in 2020. Costa Rica benefits from regional trade agreements and integration initiatives, such as the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), which provide opportunities for trade expansion and market access.

Costa Rica is currently being recommended to focus on its infrastructure and diversification. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2020, Costa Rica ranks 111th out of 141 countries in terms of infrastructure quality, indicating areas for improvement. The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted Costa Rica's tourism industry, leading to a significant decline in tourist arrivals and revenue, highlighting the vulnerability of the sector to external shocks.



6.1.3 El Salvador

El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America, bordered by Guatemala to the west, Honduras to the north and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. With its strategic location, young workforce, and ongoing efforts to improve the business environment, El Salvador offers opportunities for foreign companies to invest and expand their operations. El Salvador is a signatory to trade agreements such as the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), which offer preferential access to key export markets, including the United States and Europe.

El Salvador also has some areas to work on. El Salvador ranks 104th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2020, indicating widespread corruption and governance challenges. According to the World Bank, remittances accounted for approximately 23% of El Salvador's GDP in 2020, highlighting the country's reliance on external sources of income.

6.1.4 Guatemala

Guatemala is the largest economy in Central America, bordered by Mexico to the north and west, Belize to the northeast, Honduras to the east, El Salvador to the southeast, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Its economy is characterized by a mix of agriculture, industry, and services. Guatemala's participation in CAFTA-DR has facilitated access to the U.S. market, its largest trading partner, and contributed to the growth of its export-oriented industries.



Although a large and vibrant economy, Guatemala also has its shortcomings. For example, Guatemala ranks 146th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2020. This might be somewhat tied to Guatemala's history of political instability, with frequent changes in government and ongoing social tensions related to issues such as inequality, poverty, and land rights. Also, Guatemala ranks 125th out of 141 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2020 in terms of infrastructure quality.

6.1.5 Honduras

Honduras is the second-largest country in Central America, bordered by Guatemala to the west, El Salvador to the southwest, Nicaragua to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the south, and the Caribbean Sea to the north. Honduras has a rich agricultural sector, with opportunities for foreign investment in crops such as bananas, coffee, sugar cane, and palm oil. Foreign companies have invested in agribusiness ventures, including plantations, processing facilities, and export-oriented agriculture.

There are also some issues Honduras needs to address. Notably, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Honduras has one of the highest homicide rates in the world, with approximately 38.9 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2020.

6.1.6 Nicaragua

Nicaragua shares borders with Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south, with coastlines along both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Nicaragua has made strides in renewable energy development, with renewable sources accounting for over 60% of the



country's electricity generation in recent years, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Nicaragua's participation in CAFTA-DR has facilitated access to the U.S. market, its largest trading partner, and contributed to the growth of its export-oriented industries.

Although Nicaragua is generally considered safer than some of its Central American neighbors, crime rates remain a concern, particularly in urban areas. Also Nicaragua ranks 124th out of 141 in infrastructure quality, and 161st out of 180 countries in corruption.

6.1.7 Panama

Panama is bordered by Costa Rica to the west and Colombia to the southeast, with coastlines along both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Panama's strategic location at the crossroads of North and South America, coupled with the Panama Canal, has positioned it as a critical player in global trade and transportation.

According to the Global Forest Watch, Panama lost approximately 38,000 hectares of tree cover in 2020 alone, highlighting the urgency of addressing environmental sustainability concerns. The services sector accounts for approximately 80% of Panama's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the World Bank. Diversifying the economy by investing in other sectors can help mitigate risks associated with economic dependency.

6.2 Bilateral and multilateral agreements affecting Central American economies



Bilateral and multilateral agreements can help ease of access to funding from both parties, and support trade between nations.

Central American Integration System (SICA)

SICA is a regional organization comprising eight Central American countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (which is not geographically part of Central America but is included in SICA) which aims to promote regional integration and economic cooperation.

Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR)

CAFTA-DR is a free trade agreement between the United States, the Dominican Republic, and several Central American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, that promotes trade liberalization

Association Agreement between Central America and the European Union (EU)

The Association Agreement between Central America and the EU is a comprehensive trade and cooperation agreement between the EU and the Central American countries.

Central America-Mexico Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)

AFTA is a free trade agreement between Central American countries and Mexico. The agreement aims to promote trade and investment between the two regions by reducing tariffs, facilitating customs procedures, and fostering cooperation in areas such as agriculture, services, and intellectual property rights.



Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Financing

Central American countries often receive financing and technical assistance from multilateral institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support infrastructure projects, social programs, and economic development initiatives. The IDB provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to help address development challenges and promote inclusive growth in the region.

8. Questions to Consider

1. How open will Central American countries be for lobbying?
2. How will Central America address its infrastructure problem?
3. How will Central America address its corruption situation?
4. What are some eco-friendly implementations and regulations that could be made for Central American countries to achieve their environmental goals?
5. Will reparations be paid for the past actions of colonizers and imperialist countries?
6. Will the course of Central American countries be towards the liberalization or protectionism of their economies?
7. How can Central American countries protect their domestic economies from the side effects of FDI, such as monopolies and unfair competition?



8. Further Reading

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