

**FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND
THE REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA**

PREAMBLE

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, hereinafter referred to as “Korea”; on the one part, and

THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA;

THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR;

THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS;

THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA; and

THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA;

hereinafter referred to as the “Republics of Central America”, on the other,

STRENGTHENING the special bonds of friendship and cooperation between them;

CONVINCED that a free trade area will create an expanded and secure market for goods and services in their territories and a stable and predictable environment for investment, thus enhancing the competitiveness of their firms in global markets while recognizing the differences in their levels of development and the size of their economies;

DESIRING to raise living standards, promote economic growth and stability, create new employment opportunities, and improve the general welfare in their territories, by liberalizing and expanding trade and investment between their territories;

SEEKING to establish clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade and investment, to reduce or eliminate the barriers to trade and to facilitate the investment between their territories;

RECOGNIZING that this Agreement should be implemented with a view to promoting sustainable development in a manner consistent with environment protection and conservation;

BUILDING on their respective rights and obligations under the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* and other multilateral, and bilateral instruments of cooperation to which they are parties; and

PRESERVING their flexibility to safeguard the public welfare;

HAVE AGREED as follows: