

***BDT Seminar on the Economic and financial aspects of telecommunication  
and Meeting of SG3RG-LAC  
San Salvador, El Salvador, 15-18 February 2011  
Practical information for delegates***

**1. Venue of the meeting**

Not yet decided. Will be published in due course in an addendum to this Collective letter.

**2. Hotels**

The list of hotels will also be published in due course in an addendum to this Collective letter.

**3. Visa and departure tax**

El Salvador is part of the **Agreement on the creation of the single Central American visa for the free movement of foreigners among the Republics of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua**, since 2005, which defines, according to the citizenship of the traveler that wishes to visit any of these countries (CA-4), the kind of visa he/she will require. In addition, the kind of visa to request to enter El Salvador or any other CA-4 country, will depend on the kind of passport you are travelling on. In order to determine the kind of visa required from those listed below, we would advise you to contact the consular representation of El Salvador closest to your residence:

- Exempt from visa (does NOT require a visa to enter the country).
- Exempt from visa but obliged to pay the tourist card (which can be obtained at entrance border posts set up at the International Airport of El Salvador).
- Requires a consular visa, which are awarded by the diplomatic or consular representations of El Salvador.
- Requires a consular visa, which are awarded only through an authorization of the General Directorate for Migration and Foreign citizens.

Please also note that citizens from some South American and African countries will be required to present proof of vaccination against yellow fever, 10 days before travelling.

**4. Transportation between airport and hotels and between hotels and the venue of the meeting**

Information on transportation between the airport and the various hotels and between the various hotels and the venue of the meeting will be sent at a later stage by electronic mail to the group's mailing list, as well as to those persons having pre-registered for the meeting.

**5. Taxis**

Taxis may be found at all airports and main hotels. It is recommended that the rate be agreed upon before getting into the taxi, as they do not have meters.

## **6. Local time**

El Salvador is six hours behind the Greenwich meridian (GMT -0600h), in the Pacific Central time.

## **7. Weather**

El Salvador enjoys a tropical climate, with two seasons: the dry season or summer (November to April), and the rainy season (May to October). During the rainy season, expect rain mainly in the afternoon and during the night. Average annual temperature is 25°C (77°F.). Average annual rainfall is 1823 mm.

## **8. Medial requirements and vaccinations**

The necessary vaccinations to enter the country (as at May 2010) are the following:

- Compulsory: yellow fever (if you are coming from an endemic country – please consult a medical service);
- Recommended: Hepatitis A, Tetanus-diphtheria

It is recommended that during your stay in El Salvador you drink bottled water. It is advisable to obtain a medical insurance valid abroad to cover your stay in El Salvador, and that you take basic medication such as aspirin, antidiarrhoeal tablets, usual creams, plasters, etc.).

## **9. Internet connectivity at the venue of the meeting**

A wireless network will be available in the meeting rooms during the event.

## **10. Currency**

US dollar (USD).

## **11. Shop and office hours**

El Salvador counts the largest shopping malls in the region (Metrocentro – Metro Sur), particularly in San Salvador, with several international luxury shops. Goods can also be purchased from markets, including national and international supermarkets.

The large shopping malls stock the latest in international fashion, accessories & cuisine. These are generally found in the city's upscale suburbs such as Escalón, Santa Elena, and their surroundings. These shopping malls are:

### **Multiplaza**

#### **La Gran Vía and Galerías**

Hours: Monday - Thursday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Friday – Saturday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Sunday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

#### **Plaza Merlio**

Hours: Monday - Saturday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Sunday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

## 12. Electricity and sockets

Electricity in El Salvador is 115 volts, alternating at 60 revolutions per second. If you travel to El Salvador with an appliance that does not accept 115 volts at 60 Herz, you will need a voltage converter.

Sockets of the types A and B are available.



## 13. Languages

Spanish is the oficial language in El Salvador.

## 14. Tips

A tip of 10% of the total amount of the bill is suitable in most places. However, before leaving your tip, check the bill: some cafes and bars already include it in the service.

## 15. Prices and taxes

Most goods are taxed with 13% VAT (Value Added Tax).

## 16. About el Salvador

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America. It is also the only one without a coastline on the Caribbean Sea. The country is mostly mountainous with a narrow coastal belt and a central plateau. The shoreline goes from the mouth of the Paz river, in the Southwest, to the mouth of the Goascorán river, in the Southeast.

El Salvador is well-known for its volcanoes, for example the Santa Ana, the San Vicente, the San Salvador, the San Miguel and the Izalco, known until recently as the Lighthouse of the Pacific.

The country is often used as a stopover for travelers and cargo transport going from North to South America, or viceversa. The Pan-American Highway goes through El Salvador, connecting the capital, San Salvador, with the land borders with Guatemala and Honduras. Other important roads are the Coastal Road, built in the 1950s, which runs parallel to the coast, and the Northern Trunk Road, which connects the capital with the department of Chalatenango.

El Salvador is in a tropical zone and has similar temperatures all year round. However, because of the coastal belt along the Pacific Ocean, major variations in temperature occur due to the sea breeze which brings humidity and heat.

The culture of El Salvador is a mixture of the cultures of the Maya, Lenca, Nahua, Ulua, Spanish and other minority ethnical groups. The best well-known food of El Salvador is the “papasas”.



**Izalco Volcano**

**San Salvador**



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