



**Instruction to the United States-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement Secretariat for Environmental Matters Regarding Submission “Rio Yaque del Norte II-RD” (CAALA/24/001), Concerning the Assertion that the Dominican Republic is Failing to Effectively Enforce its Environmental Laws with Regard to the Yaque River Basin**

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SUPPORTIVE of the process provided for in Articles 17.7 and 17.8 of the United States-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) regarding Submissions on Enforcement Matters and the preparation of factual records;

CONSIDERING Submission CAALA/24/001 filed by Ernesto Inoa on February 6, 2024;

HAVING REVIEWED the CAFTA-DR Secretariat for Environmental Matters’ April 7, 2025, determination that the Submission warrants developing a Factual Record in this matter; and

PURSUANT to Article 17.8.2 of CAFTA-DR;

HEREBY VOTES TO INSTRUCT the Secretariat for Environmental Matters to prepare a factual record concerning the Submission.

**Kelly K. Milton**  
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

**John Thompson**  
Senior Bureau Official  
Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

U.S. Representatives on the CAFTA-DR Environmental Affairs Council