

**COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PROGRAM
“CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ” AND THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

1. STATEMENTS

- 1.1.** This agreement is made between the National Scholarship Program “Carlos Antonio López” (Programa Nacional de Becas “Carlos Antonio Lopez”) under the Vice ministry of Human Capital and Organizational Management of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Paraguay (hereinafter **BECAL**) located in Estrella St. 345, Asunción, Paraguay and **THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**” (hereinafter **SIPA**), jointly referred as the “Parties” herein.
- 1.2.** **BECAL** and **SIPA** share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Paraguay and **SIPA**, and enhancing the links between **SIPA** and its academic counterparts in Paraguay.
- 1.3.** **BECAL** and **SIPA** by entering into this agreement, aim to foster cooperation and enhance the links between both institutions and agree to establish and administer the **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**, under the terms and conditions contained in this agreement.
- 1.4.** An important means of fostering such cooperation is through the awarding of scholarships to all interested students living, working or studying in Paraguay wishing to pursue postgraduate programs.

2. AGREEMENT

The Parties agree that the **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** will operate as follow:

- 2.1.** Individuals eligible for this program must hold Paraguayan citizenship, consistent with the program’s sponsorship by the Government of Paraguay. Students interested in this program will seek admission to postgraduate degree programs, including Master’s by coursework and research, offered by **SIPA**.

Specifically, to be considered for admission to **SIPA** and for acceptance into the **SIPA–BECAL Joint Scholarship Program**, prospective students must apply to one of the following three master’s degree programs offered by **SIPA**: the Master of International Affairs (**MIA**), the Master of Public Administration (**MPA**), or the Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (**MPA-DP**).

Applicants must comply with **SIPA**’s standard application procedures and meet all admission requirements, including the English language proficiency requirements established by **SIPA**.

To be considered for admission, prospective Paraguayan applicants must submit their application to the MIA or MPA programs for the Spring entry term no later than October 15 of each year during which this Agreement is in force. SIPA shall issue a conditional letter of admission by November 1.

BECAL shall evaluate each applicant in accordance with the deadlines and procedures established for each respective call. Upon BECAL's approval, the student's admission shall be deferred to the Fall semester.

- 2.2. Students accepted by **SIPA** will submit a scholarship application to **BECAL**, following its application procedures and meeting all the requirements established by **BECAL**.
- 2.3. Students who are selected as beneficiaries of the **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP** program (the "Sponsored Students") will be eligible to be considered for shared financing under this agreement.
- 2.4. **SIPA** will provide a discount to the value of **30%** of the tuition fees to all Sponsored Students enrolled in MIA/MPA degrees at Columbia **SIPA**.
- 2.5. **BECAL** shall provide appropriate funding to **SIPA** for Sponsored Students to be able to undertake the Master of International Affairs (MIA), Master of Public Administration (MPA), or the Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MPA-DP) degree program at **SIPA**.

BECAL will fund the total amount following BECAL guidelines and financial aid limits, for each Sponsored Student, confirming that BECAL may provide up to USD \$50,000 per Master's student.

The Sponsored Student's program duration must not exceed 24 months. This maximum funding amount is designated exclusively to cover tuition fees and cost of living expenses explicitly outlined in the agreement. BECAL will not cover the cost of English language courses.

Funding will first be allocated towards tuition and any remaining funds will be allocated towards the remaining expenses stated in BECAL's terms and conditions document.

- 2.6. Sponsored Students are responsible for obtaining financial resources to cover any further amounts required to meet other costs and expenses that are not included in this **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**, during the period of their enrolment at **SIPA** in concordance with the Student responsibilities detailed in section five (5) of this agreement.
- 2.7. For the purpose of adequate implementation and monitoring of this agreement, the Parties (**SIPA** and **BECAL**) will be responsible for ensuring the activities listed below are carried out:
 - 2.7.1. That **SIPA** and **BECAL** provide prospective scholars with information on the programs of interest to the scholars and guidance on the process to apply to study at **SIPA**

- 2.7.2. That **SIPA** provides to **BECAL** all relevant promotional material and prospectuses in order to encourage interest in its programs in Paraguay.
- 2.7.3. That **SIPA** provides timely admission decisions to all applicants to **SIPA**, and encourages eligible students to contact and submit an application to **BECAL**.
- 2.7.4. That **BECAL** provides **SIPA** with institutional information on **BECAL** and pertinent details of this **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**.
- 2.7.5. **BECAL** will provide the necessary financial arrangements for confirmed and selected Sponsored Students in accordance with **BECAL** guidelines and financial aid limits.
- 2.7.6. That each party has the obligation to inform the other party of any change in the designated coordinator or signatory in charge of the implementation and monitoring of this agreement.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SIPA

- 3.1. **SIPA** will enroll all confirmed and selected Sponsored Students as full-time students for the duration of their enrollment, subject to **SIPA**'s policies.
- 3.2. **SIPA** will provide orientation for the Sponsored Students, in accordance with what is routinely provided to similarly situated MIA/MPA students.
- 3.3. **SIPA** will provide advice on housing options to Sponsored Students and on any procedures to be followed, in accordance with what is routinely provided to similarly situated MIA/MPA students.
- 3.4. **SIPA** will provide the appropriate academic counselling and other support to Sponsored Students, in accordance with what is typically provided to similarly situated MIA/MPA students.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BECAL

- 4.1. **BECAL** will be responsible to provide appropriate funding to **SIPA** for Sponsored Students in accordance to the section 2.5 of this agreement.
- 4.2. **BECAL** will be responsible for payment of living allowances according to **BECAL** guidelines and financial aid limits.
- 4.3. **BECAL** will be responsible to cover appropriate medical insurance costs for the Sponsored Students in accordance to the section 2.5 of this agreement.
- 4.4. **BECAL** will facilitate the promotion of this arrangement on a year round basis, and will promote the scholarships to be awarded under this **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**. The Parties agree to collaborate on promotional language.

- 4.5. **BECAL** will provide financial support to the Sponsored Students in order to obtain their appropriate visa for the defined study period in the United States of America. This provision aligns with the specific responsibilities for Sponsored Students listed in Section 5 of this agreement, which states that Sponsored Students are responsible to obtain an appropriate visa for the defined study period in SIPA. In this regard, SIPA will provide the necessary documentation to support the visa application.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- 5.1. In order to maintain the financial support and benefits described in this **SIPA - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**, Sponsored Students are responsible for remaining enrolled at **SIPA** throughout their participation in the Masters programs established in **BECAL** guidelines.
- 5.2. Sponsored Students are required to obtain an appropriate visa for the defined study period in **SIPA**. **SIPA** will provide the necessary documentation to support the visa application and **BECAL** will provide the financial support described in section 4.5 of this agreement.
- 5.3. Sponsored Students attending **SIPA** are responsible for obtaining the appropriate Health Insurance.
- 5.4. Sponsored Students, will be subject to the general regulations governing graduate students at **SIPA** and subject to the normal disciplinary policies of **SIPA** as well as to **BECAL** scholarships programs rules applicable.

6. SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES

- 6.1. Matters not included in this agreement or those related to it, will be solved wherever possible by mutual friendly discussion between the Parties. Any decision agreed must be acknowledged by an exchange of letters between the Parties.
- 6.2. In case of disputes regarding the interpretation and fulfilment of this agreement shall be settled and negotiate in good faith by mutual agreement between the Parties.
- 6.3. If there is a difference in the interpretation or implementations of this agreement, both parties will endeavour to resolve it by informal discussions between the respective Activities Coordinators established in this agreement. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute, they agree to submit to an alternative dispute resolution, subject to the rules that the parties themselves mutually agree to adopt.
- 6.4. Notwithstanding the existence of a dispute, the parties must continue to perform their obligations under this agreement.

7. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 7.1. The present agreement shall come into effect on the date of its last signature by the undersigned representatives of each party and shall initially be in force for 5 years.
- 7.2. The present agreement may be amended by mutual consent by means of a notification in writing signed by both Parties, specifying the date on which such an amendment shall come into effect and what that amendment is.
- 7.3. This agreement may be terminated by either Party by giving at least thirty days' notice to the other Party in writing. Sponsored Students enrolled at **SIPA** at the time of the termination will be able to complete their studies with the agreed financial support from **BECAL**.
- 7.4. Termination of this agreement shall not affect the conclusion of any cooperation actions that may have been undertaken during its period of force.
- 7.5. This agreement is to be signed in three (3) originals in English and three (3) originals in Spanish, both texts being identically authentic. In the event of any discrepancy between the English language version and Spanish language version of this agreement, the English language version shall prevail.

For SIPA	For MEF/BECAL
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For Columbia University
School of International and Public
Affairs (SIPA)

Keren Yarhi-Milo
Dean

Date: 02.26.26



for MEF/BECAL

Andrea Picaso
Viceminister

Date: