

Secretariat for the Economic Integration of Central America (SIECA)

Key features

Type of organisation: Regional intergovernmental organisation

Headquarters: Guatemala

Charter/Constitution: General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration

Secretariat staff: 90

Membership:

- Nature: National States
- Number: 6

Total budget: US\$ 3,000,000.00 (per year)

Type of activity: Technical advice and Administrative

Year of establishment: 1960

Sectors of activity: Trade, services, customs unions and other type of regional economic integration

Webpage: www.sieca.int

Members

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.

Mandate

According to the Protocol to the General Treaty of Economic Integration (Guatemala Protocol), SIECA is the technical and administrative body of the Central American Economic Integration Process and supports the Council of Ministers of Economic Integration of Central America in the establishment of an economic union, by means of gradually implementing and developing a Free Trade Area, a Customs Union, and a Central American Common Market.

SIECA oversees the correct enforcement of legal instruments of the regional economic integration process as well the execution of all decisions of the Economic Sub-System entities. The Guatemala Protocol also establishes that the Council of Ministers of Economic Integration will define the functions of the Secretariat. Additionally, it establishes that SIECA has the capacity to make proposals on economic integration topics.

IRC processes taking place within the Secretariat for the Economic Integration of Central America



Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)	√	10
Legally binding decisions	√	350
Recommendations	√	15 per annum
Political declarations	√	2 per annum
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards	√	
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	

Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments		As part of the Central American Sub-System of Economic Integration, SIECA coordinates 14 secretariats and other regional entities that deal with agriculture, fisheries, finance, telecommunications, etc. Moreover, SIECA acts as the link between the organised regional private sector (Advisory Committee on Economic Integration) and the Council of Ministers and other organs. With other IOs, depending on the nature of the relationship, letters of understanding or memoranda of understanding are signed for specific cooperation projects. SIECA has observer status at the WTO's Trade and Development Committee.
MoU or other agreements	√	
Participate in co-ordinating institution		
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination		
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	
Exchange information		

SIECA history

The General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration was signed in Managua in 1960 by El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Costa Rica acceded in 1962. It established the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration (its name was later changed to SIECA). In 1993 the Protocol to the General Treaty of Economic Integration (Guatemala Protocol) changed the name of the Permanente Secretariat to Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration (SIECA, for its acronym in Spanish). In 2013 Panama became a member of SIECA.

Source: Data provided by SIECA to the OECD as part of a data collection exercise, January 2018.