

Despacho Viceministra de Ciencia y Tecnología

19 de marzo del 2020  
MICITT-DVCT-OF-061-2020

**His Excellency  
Ross Denny  
British Ambassador to Costa Rica  
British Embassy  
San Jose**

Dear Ambassador,

From the beginning of the accession process of Costa Rica to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT) has been involved in the Committees within its areas of competence. This involvement includes the work made in the framework of the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP). Following important efforts, Costa Rica obtained the Formal Opinion for this Committee in September 2017. Despite the recognition of Costa Rica's innovation system achievements, the Organization also identified challenges and proposed valuable recommendations in order to continue aligning ourselves with the best international practices.

In this context, some of the recommendations pursue to strengthen fundamental areas of biomedical research regulations and practices in Costa Rica, including i) Clinical trials, ii) Human biobanks and genetic research databases, iii) Molecular Genetic Testing and iv) Licensing of genetic inventions. Since 2018, MICITT has taken actions to implement these recommendations; has developed several workshops in these areas to create capacities and identify main stakeholders. Besides, the Ministry has hired legal advisors to analyze and recommend how to modify national regulations in order to attend those recommendations.

At this point, we are ready to work in the development of e the necessary modifications in the national legal framework in coordination with the competent authorities of the



Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones

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Ministry of Health however, budget limitations have prevented MICITT to move forward with this step.

Therefore, I would like to respectfully request the United Kingdom to consider supporting the Government of Costa Rica through the funding of this project, that seeks to strengthen the scientific-technological regulatory framework in Costa Rica, specifically in fundamental areas of biomedical research.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the United Kingdom for all the support and guidance that has been provided to our country to become an OECD member. We are committed to deploy all the necessary efforts to advance towards implementing the recommendations raised during this process.

Cordialmente,

**Dr.-Ing. Paola Vega Castillo**  
**DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

cc: Luis Adrián Salazar Solís, Minister of Sciences, Technology and Telecommunications.

