

Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala of 5 September 1965

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**Title I**  
**The Nation, The State and its Government**

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Chapter I General Provisions

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Article 3

Guatemala exercises full sovereignty and dominion over its territory which includes soil, subsoil, continental shelf, territorial waters, and the space above these, and the natural resources and wealth existing therein, without prejudice to free navigation by sea and air in conformity with law and the provisions of international treaties and agreements.

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**Title III Social Guarantees**

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Chapter V  
Social and Economic Regime

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Article 129

The following belong to the nation:

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4. The maritime and land zone, the continental shelf and the air space above, to an area and in the manner laid down by law or ratified international treaties.
5. The subsoil, deposits of hydrocarbons and minerals and any other organic or inorganic substance in the subsoil.

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Article 134

The technical and rational exploitation of hydrocarbons, minerals and other natural resources are declared to be of public utility and necessity.

Rights to the exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals shall be acquired in conformity with the law, for a period of not more than forty years, with the right of extension for another twenty years.

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