

DECLARATION
15th ALBA-TCP SUMMIT
Caracas, March 5th, 2018

The Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America - Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) gathered in Caracas, inspired by the legacy of Commander Fidel Castro Ruz, historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, and today, five years after the passing of Commander Hugo Chavez Frias, whose thoughts and work embody the true ideals of Latin American and Caribbean integration.

We reaffirm the postulates of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed by the Heads of State and / or Government at the 2nd CELAC Summit, held in Havana on January 28-29, 2014.

We demand strict abidance of the purposes and principles of, inter alia, the Charter of the United Nations and the International Law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prohibition of the use and the threat of the use of force, as well as the respect for the self-determination, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs .

We reaffirm the full validity of the Declaration of the 14th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the ALBA-TCP adopted on March 5th, 2017, within the current context of aggressions against the progressive countries of the region.

We reiterate our commitment to continue promoting the construction of a new fair, inclusive, poly-centric and multi-polar international order, in contrast to the hegemonic and unilateral trends, with strict respect for the peoples and the institutions elected by them as well as for the existing different cultures of our planet.

We denounce the attempts to reinstate the infamous Monroe Doctrine and the military threat and the calls for a military coup against the constitutional Government of Venezuela.

We underline the lack of moral authority of third countries to teach lessons to the countries of the region on democracy and human rights, and *we demand* respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of the Venezuelan people.

We reject the interventionist policy of the Secretary General of Organization of American States (OAS) and some member countries of this organization against the progressive countries of the region.

We reiterate our commitment to the Latin American and Caribbean unity seeking their own, independent and sovereign destiny, without tutelage or interference that affects our peoples and their development. Furthermore, we reiterate our full commitment to the genuinely Latin American and Caribbean integration mechanisms such as the CELAC, UNASUR, PETROCARIBE, CARICOM and the ALBA-TCP to ensure the sovereignty, independence, equality and self-determination of our peoples.

We express our disagreement with the statements issued by a group of countries of the Hemisphere on February 13th, 2018 in Lima, Peru, which constitutes an interference in the internal affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We reject the exclusion of the sisterly of the Bolivarian Republic and its President, Nicolas Maduro Moros, from the 8th Summit of the Americas because we consider that such Summit must be a space for concertation for all States of the Hemisphere where we can all express our ideas, reach consensus, dissent and debate, respecting our diversity.

We demand respect for the legality of the organization of the Summit of the Americas, hence, we demand the right of Venezuela to participate in such activity and we endeavor to take diplomatic and political measures in this regard.

We exhort the international community to refrain from exercising any kind of coercive measures against the political independence and territorial integrity of Venezuela. These practices are clearly incompatible with the principles of International Law and the Charter

of the United Nations and are contrary to the Declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

We reject the unilateral coercive measures and sanctions imposed against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which harm the life and development of the noble Venezuelan people and the enjoyment of their rights.

We renew our firm support to the Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic, Nicolas Maduro Moros, his government and the democratic process that he is leading.

We recognize the inalienable right of the Venezuelan people to hold and participate in presidential and legislative elections at national, state and municipal levels, in accordance with their internal rules and procedures.

We endorse the efforts of the Venezuelan people and authorities to find by themselves the solutions to their political and economic challenges.

We reject the increase of political and economic corruption in the region, showed by the growing wealth distribution inequality, social exclusion of the most humble sectors, the financial influence of large capitals on political campaigns, cash flight and the safe haven found by corrupt politicians in third countries which receive them.

We reaffirm our political willingness to the fight against corruption and the fulfillment of the international commitments on this matter. Furthermore, we call on the countries of the region to undertake or continue deepening the fight against corruption and transnational organized crime in order to ensure the well-being and development of our peoples.

We reaffirm the need to strengthen the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), as a privileged space for political dialogue in Our America declared as a Zone of Peace, in the 2nd CELAC Summit, held in Havana.

We reiterate the agreements adopted within the summits of the Heads of State and Government of the CELAC and we reaffirm the Punta Cana Declaration.

We express our unconditional support to Bolivia in the prompt exercise of the Pro Tempore Presidency of UNASUR and CELAC, as mechanisms of dialogue to consolidate the integration of our region.

We reaffirm the claim of the international community to lift the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States, due to its extraterritoriality harms all States. Likewise, we condemn the new measures furthering the blockade and the recent unilateral, unfounded, arbitrary and politically motivated decisions by the United States Government, which harm the Cuban people, the U.S citizens and the relations with Cuba as a whole.

We stress the willingness of the people and government of Bolivia in the search for a peaceful solution to their maritime confinement that affects regional integration and prevents the country from achieving development, by means of International Law, negotiation and fruitful dialogue.

We welcome and congratulate the Ecuadorian people for its participation in the popular consultation and referendum held on February 4th, 2018 and the vast popular support granted to President Lenin Moreno, which enabled to strengthen democracy.

We reaffirm our strong support to the Caribbean countries, victims of devastating natural phenomena and climate change, so that we actively contribute to overcome the ravages caused by these events. *We demand* a fair and differentiated treatment for the Caribbean States. *We reiterate* our solidarity in the light of the measures -so called "of graduation"- and the actions of extra-regional countries against several Caribbean countries, declaring them non-cooperative jurisdictions, and we join the claim of compensation for the horrors of slavery and human trafficking.

We call upon the social and political organizations of the hemisphere to participate in the fora and activities by social movements and progressive forces to be held in 2018.

Let us defend unity in the diversity of Our America. Let us reject the shameful exclusions and interventionism.

**The unity of our peoples is not a mere chimera of men...
but an inexorable decree of destiny.
“Let us unite and we shall be invincible”.
Simon Bolívar**

Letter to Manuel Cedeño, Barcelona, January 10th, 1817