



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs  
Weekly Newsletter / December 17th 2021



**TOPIC OF THE WEEK**

## ALBA-TCP ratifies integration path for development

In the 20th Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), held in Havana, Cuba, on December 14th, the member countries of this bloc carried out a comprehensive evaluation of its 17 years of operation, in order to establish a multi-dimensional plan for common development.

In their final statement, the Heads of State and Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Venezuela, ratify that the path towards integration must be guided by solidarity, social justice, cooperation and economic complementarity, in order to face together the imperial threats against the region.

In the final document, they advocate for an international order "based on multilateralism, observance of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International

Law," and reject the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. In this sense, they once again condemn the blockade against Cuba and Venezuela, as well as the attacks on Nicaragua and Bolivia.

In addition, they will continue to strengthen the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as a space of integration and urgently called for the creation of a more comprehensive mechanism for debt relief for developing countries.

### The house of equals

The President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, proposed the creation of an economic plan to boost production in the region. He also considered it necessary to "advance more and better in the integration, in economic development and in the creation of wealth for the peoples."

In that scenario, ALBA-TCP "is the house of equals, of big dreams, our Commanders Hugo

Chávez and Fidel Castro where the ones who founded it and accelerated great projects for public education and health."

On his part, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, emphasized that the bloc constitutes an "authentic moral fortress of dignity," which showed its strengths in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. "These expressions of alliance and support among all are not only necessary, but also possible."

### Post pandemic plan

The Summit approved the ALBA-TCP 2022 Post Pandemic Plan, which stipulates strengthening ties with other integration bodies to promote the production and equitable distribution of vaccines, as well as consolidate economic plans, one of the areas most affected by the Coronavirus, explained the Executive Secretary of ALBA-TCP, Sacha Llorenti.

In the social sphere, it was agreed to link the ALBA-TCP social agenda with the United Nations 2030 agenda; to re-launch the social missions of the alliance and to create an observatory against interfering actions, to monitor these manoeuvres against the region.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## 82% of the population vaccinated against COVID-19

On December 12th, Venezuela reached the goal of 82% of the population vaccinated against COVID-19. The goal is to reach 90% by the end of December. As part of the re-vaccination plan announced by

the Government, the first batches of 7 million Sputnik Light vaccines agreed with Russia arrived in the country on December 10 and 11.

PHOTO: COURTESY



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## DIPLOMACY

### Peoples of the World gather for Peace and Democracy

Representatives of social movements, Human Rights defenders and regional leaders reviewed at the World Congress of Peoples for Peace, strategies for joint action against the pretensions to establish a new Cold War logic, destined to subdue the countries that fight for the defense of their sovereignty. In the virtual meeting, which was held on December 9 and 10, aspects such as joint actions for the protection of human rights, the protection of vulnerable sectors, respect for social struggles, the preservation of the environment, among others, were analyzed.

“With Latin American union we will find ways for development, for a new prosperity, of a new future, for the new America,” President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, stated, in the closing of the activity, accompanied by Evo Morales, indigenous leader and former Bolivian President, and Sacha Llorenti, Executive Secretary of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP).

In his speech, the Head of State warned that the imperial power axes intend to divide the world between allies and independent nations, in order to stimulate conflicts. In view of this, he proposes the birth of a new humanity and a 21st century “without empire, without hegemons.”

#### Defense of democracy

The congress also was analyzed articulation

#### Unity Against Imperialism

As part of the congress, the Anti-Imperialist Meeting for the Rights of the Peoples was held. Through a statement, social activists agreed to continue the work of the American Coordinator for the Defense of Human Rights. They will promote solidarity in the face of practices such as so-called Lawfare and the repression against popular mobilization.

strategies to defend popular democracy in the face of the current multidimensional crisis, which is used by dominant sectors to impose false stereotypes promoted by the Government of the United States.

“When they say human rights, what they really mean is rights for large interests to exploit resources from other countries,” Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister, Félix Plasencia, warned and added this involves a “strange democracy,” the one that at the beginning of 2021, was shaken by the unprecedented take of the Capitol.

The debate promoted from the World Congress of Peoples for Peace is aligned with other initiatives such as “A plan to save the planet,” proposed by ALBA-TCP to face the challenges of humanity in economic, health and food matters.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## CAPSULES OF IDEAS

**“Divided, we are weaker, less respected by the enemies and neutrals. The union under a Supreme government, will provide our force and will make us all formidable.”**

Simón Bolívar. Letter to Santiago Mariño, December 16, 1813



## NEWS BRIEF

### Venezuela-Belarus Cooperation

The 8th Venezuela-Belarus High Level Joint Commission, held in Caracas, was an opportunity to evaluate mechanisms to deepen bilateral ties, with the reactivation of projects and the detection of new opportunities for exchange, with emphasis on sectors such as the industrial, agricultural, petrochemical, housing and transport, among others. Between the two nations there is “a relationship with deep roots, deeply rooted,” marked by their commitment to peace and self-determination, said the Venezuelan Vice President for Planning, Ricardo Menéndez, who installed the commission together with the head of Special Affairs of the President of Belarus, Viktor Sheiman.

PHOTO: MPPRE

### Netherlands breaches agreements

Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez, denounced that the government of the Netherlands violates international agreements by preventing a delegation from the Venezuelan State from meeting in The Hague with the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, to advance on the memorandum of understanding signed in November. “There is cynicism behind this situation, there is deception,” said Rodríguez, who added that on the instructions of President Nicolás Maduro, the meeting will be held in another country.

### For regional integration

Delcy Rodríguez, Executive Vice President, received her Bolivian counterpart, David Choquehuanca, in Caracas to evaluate mechanisms to consolidate regional integration and brotherhood ties. Choquehuanca also called for the expansion of the peoples’ struggle in the face of threats from dominant agents: “Only united will we be able to confront fascism, capitalism, colonialism, imperialism.”





## UNBLOCK



### Women, children and vulnerable sectors are the most affected by the UCM

The imposition of the so-called sanctions compromises the living conditions of those who reside in the countries that are the object of these illegal measures. But, in a special way, they affect women, children and vulnerable sectors, alerted the special rapporteur on the negative impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) on the enjoyment of human rights, Alena Douhan.

She said that these illegal measures also have an impact on indigenous peoples, migrants, the elderly, people with disabilities and other people who live with a special condition. They require social assistance, which is compromised, among other reasons, by the refusal of financial entities to process transactions from countries subject to UCM.

According to a press report from the United Nations (UN), Douhan warns of the particular impact of this situation on women, who tend to take on the procurement of essential goods and services for their families. Furthermore, in those scenarios in which economic activity declines, they are at greater risk of losing their jobs and being targeted by groups that promote sexual exploitation.

Faced with this scenario, which threatens compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Special Rapporteur reiterated her call to lift the UCM, adopt actions to avoid its adverse impact on human rights and facilitate adequate social assistance.

In addition, she asked the UN and humanitarian actors "to focus their attention on vulnerable groups in sanctioned countries, through continuous monitoring and evaluation of the consequences that sanctions have on human rights."

PHOTO: COURTESY

## REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



### Fitven shows strengths of Venezuela as a tourist power

Venezuela is a mega diverse destination, which has the challenge of building a new economy that breaks with rentism and the economic blockade. For this reason, it promotes alliances and investments in the XIV International Tourism Fair (Fitven), which brings together 125 companies and delegates from 16 nations.

Due to the location of Venezuela in America and its destinations, such as beaches, mountains, jungles, plains and savannas, tourism is one of the engines of the Bolivarian Economic Agenda, aimed at building a new productive map. For this reason, the Bolivarian Government hopes that Fitven will produce positive agreements between public and private companies, as well as strengthen exchanges with other nations. "Tourism has a lot to give to the new diversified economy, not dependent on oil (...) that produces goods, services, wealth," said President Nicolás Maduro when visiting the fair, held in La Guaira, north-central state of our nation.

#### A new scene

Through the Fitven, held between December 14th and 18th, receptive tourism is stimulated, adapted to the reality imposed by the Covid-19 and to the qualities of the country. "With this great potential, we can say that the other oil that Venezuela has, that will never run out, is tourism," said the minister of the area, Alí Padrón.

He highlighted successful experiences such as the arrival of more than six thousand tourists from Russia in two months, as well as the necessary coordination between communities, tour operators and the Venezuelan State.

An example of this is La Guaira, the venue for the fair, which has reaffirmed itself as the main tourist city in Venezuela, Governor José Alejandro Terán said. He attributes that condition to its various destinations, its extraordinary gastronomy and a valuable population.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## VENEZUELA IN IMAGES



### La Guaira, beauty by the sea

La Guaira, headquarters of the International Tourism Fair of Venezuela (Fitven) 2021, is one of our greatest attractions. Located 30 kilometres from Caracas, it has the main airport and maritime port of the country,

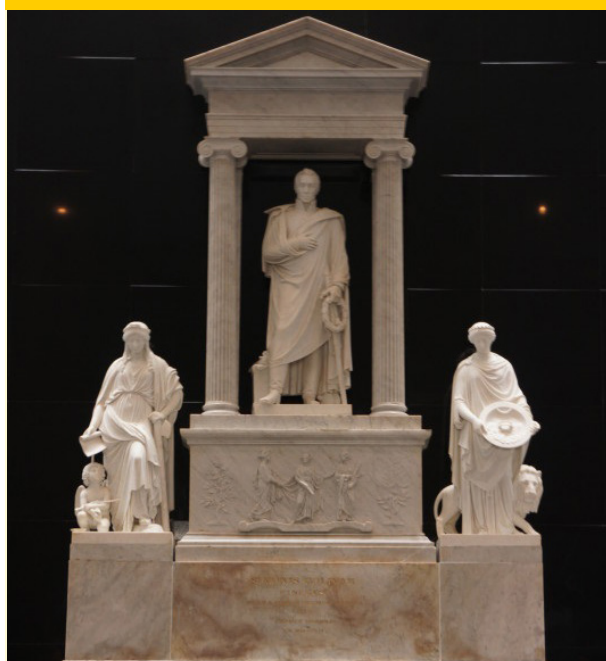
beautiful beaches, a striking colonial architecture, access to the Warairarepano National Park and a town that offers its visitors the best of itself.

IMAGE: COURTESY





## HEROIC ROOTS



### Bolívar and the inestimable good of the South American union

Simón Bolívar never wavered in his desire to consolidate a free South America. In his heroic journey, he managed to make six nations independent, but he also faced separatist movements in Greater Colombia, the confiscation of property, the prohibition of entry to Venezuela and the murder of one of his most loyal men, Antonio José de Sucre, in 1830.

“My enemies abused your credulity and trampled on what is most sacred to me: my reputation and my love of freedom,” said Bolívar at the end of that year, when, as a result of his delicate health, he stayed in Santa Marta, Colombia.

Despite his complicated condition, he always put the welfare of the continent first. “Everyone must work for the inestimable good of the union: the peoples, obeying the current Government to free themselves from anarchy; the ministers of the sanctuary directing their prayers to heaven; and the military using their swords in defense of social guarantees,” he said in his last proclamation, issued a week before passing into eternity, on December 17, 1830.

191 years after the physical departure of the Liberator, when imperialism continues its fierce attack, the Bolivarian ideal is a guide for unity, through bodies such as the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Celac).

Likewise, the thought of the Liberator is the basis of the Bolivarian Constitution, promoted by Commander Hugo Chávez and approved on December 15, 1999. In its preamble, the historical example of Bolívar, the limelight of the people and Latin American integration is exalted, value that evokes the inestimable good of the union.

IMAGE: COURTESY



## BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

### Party of San Juan Bautista, World Heritage Site

Joy, devotion, songs and drum dances characterize the festive cycle of San Juan Bautista throughout Venezuela. Although it has its roots in Catholicism, it became a symbol of syncretism and resistance for enslaved Afro-descendants in the 17th century.

By surviving in time, this celebration, associated with love and gratitude, was nourished by rituals and customs throughout the country. Given this value, since December 14 it was declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by decision of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in order to contribute to the preservation of this tradition.

The file of the festive cycle, the basis for the final decision of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO, was the product of years of work, together with bearers of this tradition. It is the same method

that since 2012 has made it possible to convert other expressions into intangible heritage, such as the Dancing Devils, the Parranda de San Pedro, the Cultivo de la Curagua, the oral tradition of the Mapoyo indigenous people, the Carnival of El Callao and the Songs of the Work of the Plain.

“We dedicate this cultural victory to the memory of our Afro-descendant leader Aristóbulo Istúriz,” who contributed to the momentum of the Bolivarian Revolution, “and to our grandparents and grandmothers who were enslaved, and who found in San Juan a trace of expression of their religiosity,” said the Minister for Culture, Ernesto Villegas.

For his part, President Nicolás Maduro valued the UNESCO declaration as a transcendental step that “ratifies the cultural richness of Venezuela.” Let the drums beat!

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

### The collapse of the Guaidó experiment

Although former congressman Juan Guaidó and his main ally, the US government, promote media campaigns to hide it, the isolation of the so-called “interim government” seems imminent. In 2019, the self-proclaimed “president” claimed to have support from at least 60 governments, a figure that contrasts with the 16 that were expressed this December.

Added to this are the staggered resignations of their representatives abroad. The last was that of Julio Borges, who wanted to be recognized as “presidential commissioner for Foreign Relations,” within the maneuver to establish a false parallel institutionalism.

Borges, who was very critical of Guaidó, said that “the interim government has to disappear” and accused him of acts of corruption, thus trying to

evade his responsibility in the objective of this failed platform: to kidnap and misappropriate resources of Venezuela abroad.

In three years, the “interim” stole assets abroad, such as those belonging to Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) in the U.S. –including Citgo–valued at more than 30 billion dollars; promoted the blocking of transactions of the Bolivarian Government for the payment of food, medicines and vaccines to contain the Covid-19; encouraged magnicide plans and linked up with paramilitary gangs to stimulate violence.

While some media corporations insist on hiding their failure, others have changed their discourse: of total support, they have gone on to analyze the collapse of Guaidó on the political scene. They can no longer cover reality with fake news.