



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN UNITY SUMMIT DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, gathered at the Unity Summit, constituted by the 21st Summit of the Rio Group and the 2nd CALC in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico on February 22 and 23, 2010,

Reaffirming our conviction to decidedly advance toward an organization that encompasses all Latin-American and Caribbean States;

Reaffirming the need to undertake efforts, with our peoples, that will enable us to move forward in the unity and the political, economic, social and cultural integration, foster social welfare and quality of life, economic growth and promote our independent and sustainable development on the basis of democracy, equality and the widest social justice;

Reasserting our decision to promote the harmonization and convergence of actions among these mechanisms through the exchange of experiences and the identification of areas of cooperation, based on the principles of solidarity, flexibility, pluralism, diversity, complementarity of actions and voluntary participation in the initiatives envisaged.

Renewing our commitment to integrated regional development which should be inclusive and equitable, taking into account the importance of ensuring favorable treatment for the small vulnerable economies and land-locked and island developing states.

Reiterating also our commitment to the building of a more just, equitable and harmonious international order based on respect for International Law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. We reaffirm our commitment to the defense of sovereignty and the right of any State to establish its own political system, free from threats, aggression and

unilateral coercive measures and in an environment of peace, stability, justice, democracy and respect for human rights.

Stressing the necessity of having our own regional space that consolidates and projects the Latin American and Caribbean identity based on shared principles and values; and on the ideals of unity and democracy of our peoples;

With the conviction that political coordination based on mutual trust among our governments is essential to foster our own solutions and to promote peace in the region; to contribute to the defense, strengthening and consolidation of our own democratic institutions; to promote and broaden political dialogue with other States and groups of States; and to strengthen multilateralism and democracy in international decision-making;

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination – Rio Group – to the central themes of the regional and global agendas in favor of the highest aspirations of our countries;

Underscoring at the same time the historic significance for our region of the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and the importance of its agenda to advance the regional integration and establish effective commitments to joint actions to promote sustainable development of the States in the region;

Endorsing our commitment to the preservation of democratic values in the region and with the full and unrestricted functioning of institutions and the rule of law and with full respect and observance of human rights, all of which constitute essential objectives promoted by our countries; Convinced that democracy is one of our region's most valued conquests, that the peaceful power transmission through institutional means and with strict compliance to the constitutional rules in each of our States is the product of a continuous and irreversible process on which the region admits no interruptions or stepping backward.

Sharing the conviction that it is necessary to establish effective commitments for joint action with the aim of strengthening regional integration and to promote the sustainable development in harmony with nature and social welfare, of all our States;

Determined to promote the synergy, harmonization, and complementarity of cooperation activities between the different integration mechanisms,

We have decided:

1. To constitute the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as our own regional space encompassing all Latin American and Caribbean States,
2. To consolidate and globally project, through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Latin American and Caribbean identity based, among others, on the following principles and common values:
 - the respect for international law
 - the sovereign equality of States
 - the non-use nor the threat of use of force
 - democracy
 - the respect for human rights
 - respect of the environment, taking into consideration the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development
 - international cooperation for sustainable development
 - the unity and integration of Latin-American and Caribbean countries
 - an ongoing dialogue that promotes peace and regional security
3. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States will work based on:
 - solidarity
 - social inclusion
 - equity and equal opportunities
 - complementarity
 - flexibility
 - voluntary participation
 - plurality
 - diversity
4. That the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States embraces the legacy of the Rio Group and the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC).

5. That the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States should, as a priority:
- Encourage, the regional integration, aiming towards the promotion of our sustainable development.
 - Promote political coordination, the enhancement of the Latin-American and Caribbean agenda in global forums and a better positioning of Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of relevant international developments.
 - Encourage the dialogue processes with other States, groups of countries and regional organizations, in order to strengthen the presence of the region in the international arena.
 - Promote the communication, cooperation, articulation, coordination, complementarity and synergy among the sub-regional organisms and institutions.
 - Increase our ability to develop specific programs on dialogue and international cooperation both within the region and with other States and international actors.
 - Strengthen cooperation on the issues and taking into account both the CALC Declaration of Salvador-Bahia mandate, and the Montego Bay Action Plan and on other documents that could be incorporated, based on the broadest integration efforts.
 - Promote the implementation our own mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution.
6. As long as the process for constituting the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is not complete, maintain a unified forum, in which all the Latin American and Caribbean States take part, that preserves the Rio Group and CALC with their respective working methods, practices, and procedures, in order to ensure that their mandates are fulfilled, as well as the capacity for political coordination that will enable them to issue statements on or act in the event of international developments.

The meetings of the Rio Group and CALC will be held through this unified forum, according to the calendar of meetings of both mechanisms. Nevertheless, the summits of 2011 in Venezuela and of 2012 in Chile will be held.

Mayan Riviera, Mexico, February 23, 2010