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- **President Maduro endorsed Proclamation of Latin America as a Zone of Peace**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Jan 29th 2014

Caracas, 29 Ene. AVN.- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro endorsed the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace, in a meeting held in Havana, Cuba, on Tuesday, informed Communication and Information minister Delcy Rodriguez.

The document was passed on the framework of the second summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which takes place on January 28-29 in the Caribbean island.

CELAC member states agreed to declare "Latin America and the Caribbean as Peace Zone, respecting the principles and norms of International Law, including international instruments of which the member States are party, and Principles and Purposes of the United Nations Charter."

Similarly, they declared their "permanent commitment to a peaceful solution of controversies, so as to dismiss forever the threats of resorting to force in our region."

In the document, CELAC countries also commit to strictly fulfill the direct or indirect non-intervention in domestic affairs of any other State and observe the principles of national sovereignty, equal rights and the right of nations to self-determination.

Furthermore, they agreed to "foster relations of friendship and cooperation among them and with other nations, regardless of differences existing between their political, economic and social systems or levels of development."

"Practicing tolerance and coexisting in peace as good wishes," remarks the document."

Cuban vice foreign minister Abelardo Moreno informed last Saturday that the paper would reaffirm their commitment to respect the right of any State to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system as essential condition to ensure peaceful coexistence.





In addition, CELAC countries committed to foster nuclear disarmament "as priority goal and contribute with general and complete disarmament, to foster the strengthening of confidence among nations."

- **Maduro: Our America proves it's possible to walk its own path**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Jan 29th 2014

Caracas, 29 Ene. AVN.- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro emphasized Wednesday that Latin American and Caribbean countries defeated fear and joined in the great Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which today held its second summit in Havana, Cuba.

This organization proves that unity is possible amid diversity, he said, taking into account that the 33 member states of the bloc are headed by leftist and rightist leaders.

Addressing to heads of state and government of the bloc in the second day of session, President Maduro said "it was proved that unity is possible amid diversity."

"America proves that it is possible to talk its own path, with respect, listening to ourselves, learning, on the basis of ideological stances, firm, clear policies that everybody defends," the Venezuelan President stressed.

A decade ago, he recalled, countries of the region continued seeing each other as foreigners and the unity worked now used to be considered impossible.

"Those were the fears of old colonial systems that were still expressing," affirmed Maduro, who lived CELAC's beginning as foreign minister under the Hugo Chavez administration.

In this connection, he commented that the community was born in an accumulated effort of the Rio Group, which was taken by leaders as Chavez and Brazilian Luis Inacio da Silva.

Maduro remarked that though the process started among leftist leaders, CELAC was born in Cancun, Mexico, under then center-right president Felipe Calderon.

Despite differences, he stressed, came to existence this community that today appears as group of peace that struggles for unity and joint battle against poverty, hunger and inequality.

The Venezuelan President took the opportunity to greet the labor carried out by Chilean president Sebastian Piñera, also identified as center-right, who assumed the pro tempore presidency of the group together with Cuba last year.





Maduro thanked Piñera for "all efforts made to consolidate this path of CELAC; extraordinary effort on behalf of President Piñera, foreign minister Alfredo Moreno. Chile presided this with dignity, decency, unitarian spirit."

- **President Maduro meets UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon**

Source: Venezuelan Presidential Press (webpage)

Date: Jan 29th 2014

Havana, Cuba.- AS part of his work schedule on the sides of the Latin-American and Caribbean States Summit in Havana, the Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro held a meeting with UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon.

During the meeting, Ban Ki-Moon expressed gratitude for the generous solidarity of Venezuela towards Haiti and praised the Venezuelan support on that matter. He also underlined the Venezuelan and Alba's support to the UN policies.

The top representative of the world-wide organization asked the cooperation of Venezuela in the strengthening of the UN guidelines on Climate Change and invited President Maduro to take part in the Climate Change Summit to be held in Peru, informed the Venezuelan for Communications and Information Minister, Delcy Rodriguez.

Ban Ki-Moon congratulated President Maduro on his electoral victory and the leadership he has proved.

This meeting was part of the work schedule of President Maduro, who works tirelessly on the consolidation of the Venezuelan system and of the new models that complement the progress of the nation.

- **Endorsed new bilateral agreements to guarantee food supply in Venezuela**

Source: Agencia Venezolana de Noticias (AVN)

Date: Jan 30th 2014

Caracas, 30 Ene. AVN.- Several bilateral agreements have been signed between Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro and his counterparts in the region amid encounters held simultaneously to the second summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Havana, Cuba, on January 28-29.

Speaking to the media, president Maduro explained these agreements aimed at "guaranteeing the supply of capital goods, services, food for our people."

The Bolivarian Government is seeking to break its relations with "thieving suppliers and businesspeople from Venezuela and the world," so alliances are being undertaken in important areas of the economy with "allied and strategic countries," said the President.





During his visit to Havana, Maduro has held bilateral encounters with his counterparts of Argentina, Cristina Fernandez; Colombia's Juan Manuel Santos; Cuba's Raul Castro; Uruguay's Jose Mujica; Grenada's Keith Mitchell; and Saint Lucia's Kenny Davis Anthony.

"As we ended with the entire 'cadivismo', we are going to end with thieving businesspeople who were stealing Venezuela from outside," Maduro said referring to corrupt actions carried out through Venezuelan foreign exchange commission CADIVI, in which people used to buy preferential dollars from the State to resell them at an over-priced black market.

In this connection, he said "we are having direct alliances with suppliers of capital goods required in the country, so that the country may produce and grow economically, permanently."

The Venezuelan President also commented that 2014 is going to be a year with a lot of work and more economic changes for the country, aimed at "benefiting the population, protecting the population, to continue strengthening the inclusive social model, people's protective social model: socialism."

- **Venezuela's Catatumbo Lightning Enters Guinness Book of World Records**

Source: Venezuelananalysis.com

Date: Jan 29th 2014



Merida, 29th January 2014 (Venezuelanalysis.com) – Venezuela's Catatumbo lightning phenomenon yesterday entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for the highest number of average lightning bolts per square kilometre per year, at 250.

The phenomenon, in the River Cataumbo at the southern end of Lake Maracaibo, is strongest during the rainy season. It originates from a mass of storm clouds over 5 km high, which are likely the result of winds from the lake





meeting surrounding mountain ranges, and collecting heat and moisture, creating electrical charges. According to AVN, there are 1.78 million lightning strikes per year.

Venezuelan environmentalist, Erick Quiroga, who has been monitoring the lightning for 13 years, proposed the phenomenon be entered into the book last year. He said the record "will have a big impact...at a global scientific level, which is important for tourism in our country".

Tourism minister Andres Izarra said the government was planning to invest in developing the area, building an "eco-tourism route" around the Puerto Concha quay.

Sergio Fuenmayor, a legislator in the national assembly, said that Venezuela was proud to hold the record, and highlighted the role the lightning phenomenon has in recovering the ozone layer, and therefore in preserving the environment.

There is a theory that the lightning strikes help to produce nitrogen oxide, which is broken down by sunlight and converted into ozone.

