



Declaration of the São Paulo Forum

Working Group Expanded Meeting

Caracas, November 18-19, 2022

Introduction

Humanity faces enormous challenges such as the climate emergency, the multidimensional crisis, especially in the economy, social inequalities, and the breach of international legality. The injustices of the international economic order continue, and the ruthless plundering of natural resources and the acquisition of wealth by transnational corporations has not been halted.

Latin America and the Caribbean are suffering the impacts of the international scenario, particularly the serious events in Europe, even though the region has not yet recovered from the serious setbacks imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, evidenced by rising levels of poverty, inequality, unemployment and food security, as well as the effects of natural disasters and inflationary pressures.

In the face of the maneuvers of the imperialism and the oligarchies to overturn the social and political achievements of progressive governments and to exercise their domination and hegemony over Our America, the resistance and struggle of the peoples led to the electoral triumph in Latin America and the Caribbean of progressive and leftist forces that seek to develop policies of popular benefit, defend sovereignty and the Latin American and Caribbean integration.

New forms of mobilization and articulation of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples were developed to achieve unity among progressive political forces, leftist governments, social and popular movements, peasant, workers', women's, indigenous peoples', students' and youth organizations.

A.- The most recent events in Latin America and the Caribbean confirm that the unity and heroic struggle of the peoples open the doors to democracy, sovereignty and social justice.

B.- We are at a historic moment to resume and deepen the transformations in the field of economy and geopolitics, from the turn of the century until now, and to accelerate the transition towards the democratic multipolarity of the world, based on new international relations of cooperation and solidarity.



C.- The electoral victories of popular forces and social rebellions, which have been registered in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2018 until now, signify a new time in which it is possible to rebuild the process of integration and unity in the region, in full awareness of the need to act in a united manner to face the great global challenges.

D.- The formation of the most diverse forms of political alliances that defend participatory democracy and social rights are an expression of the unity that can be achieved in the face of the threat posed by neo-fascist currents that operate outside the laws and constitutions and use all the resources at their disposal to promote, attempt and/or execute destabilizing coup plans.

E.- Our region has the material conditions necessary for large-scale productive deployment, natural resources are a key element in the new role that Latin America and the Caribbean can play in the world economy, moving away from the current extractivist perspective, and we must work to strengthen cooperation between our nations in the fields of science, technology and culture, and for a new reality that is indicative that political unity is now not only necessary, but urgent.

In 2023 we have important motivations that contribute to the mobilization of progressive and leftist forces in the region such as the 170th anniversary of the birth of José Martí, the bicentennial of the independence of Central America, the 70th anniversary of the assaults on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks, the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état against the Popular Unity government of President Salvador Allende in Chile, the 40th anniversary of the US invasion of Grenada and the rejection and condemnation of the imperialist Monroe doctrine on the bicentennial of its declaration.

In this regard, the São Paulo Forum, at its expanded meeting of the Working Group, in Caracas, DECLARES:

1.- We support the triumphs of Lula in Brazil, Gustavo Petro in Colombia, Xiomara Castro in Honduras, Gabriel Boric in Chile, Pedro Castillo in Peru, Luís Arce Catacora in Bolivia, and Alberto Fernández in Argentina, which have changed the political landscape of the region; and at the same time, we give our support to the Fourth Transformation of Mexico, led by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

2.- We ratify our solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela and the Sandinista Revolution of Nicaragua, in the face of the attacks by the right-wing forces and the imperialism.

2. a. We demand the immediate lifting of the tightened economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the U.S. government against the Cuban people. We



demand the exclusion of Cuba from the spurious list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and reject the siege of manipulative media campaigns aimed at subverting its constitutional order.

2. b. We express our full recognition of the victorious advance of the struggles of the Nicaraguan people in the preservation of their sovereignty and national self-determination. We commend their achievements and demand the immediate end of the aggressive policies of the U.S. and the European Union and the lifting of unilateral measures and blockades against the free and sovereign Sandinista Nicaragua.

2. c. The political stability, the progressive recovery of the economy and the deepening of revolutionary democracy that Venezuela is experiencing at this moment is the product of the intense mobilization of the civil-military unity and the patriotic conscience of the people, who are the cornerstone of the revolutionary process. The national dialogue and the resistance against the plan set in motion by the imperialism and the neo-liberal right wing made it possible to break the political and diplomatic siege on the country and the deployment of a national struggle against the blockade. Venezuela is on the international scene presenting its proposal for cooperation, unity of the peoples, balance in the world economy and peace.

3.- We ratify our full support for the proposal of a negotiated, serious, constructive and realistic solution to the war in Ukraine through dialogue, in accordance with the norms of international law, which was presented by President López Obrador and which has the support of the Venezuelan Head of State, Nicolás Maduro.

4.- We propose to contribute with all our capacities for mobilization and awareness raising, to develop a continental plan for the eradication of poverty and social inequalities, particularly severe in our region, whether in the generation of employment, universal health coverage for all citizens, or the strengthening of public and quality education.

5.- We welcome Brazil's return to the fight against climate change, announced by Lula at COP27, and express our support for the common position presented at the Summit by Presidents Gustavo Petro and Nicolás Maduro on the climate emergency that humanity is experiencing, reiterating our unwavering position in defense of the Amazon.

6.- We express our support for the bi-national agenda underway between Venezuela and Colombia, once diplomatic relations were resumed, and our solidarity with the process of Total Peace in the Republic of Colombia, which is being carried out by the government of the Historic Pact.

7.- We commit all our efforts to achieve the greatest success in the next summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which will meet next year in Buenos Aires, where they will continue to renew and accelerate the integration



process. We reiterate our support for the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, approved by the Heads of State and Government at the 2nd Summit of CELAC, held in Havana in 2014

8.- We share the proposal of former presidents and intellectuals of the region to promote the rebirth of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

9.- We value the intense work carried out by the political unity and cooperation of the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP), which has managed to overcome difficulties and face enormous challenges.

10.- We underscore the solidarity of the Cuban government and people in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and the international action of the Henry Reeves brigades, and we highlight as an outstanding achievement of the Cuban science the development of three vaccines.

12.- We ratify our historic commitment to the self-determination and independence of the people of Puerto Rico.

13.- We reiterate our full support to Argentina in its demand for sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

14.- Likewise, we ratify our support for the right of our Caribbean brothers and sisters to receive fair, special and differentiated treatment, and we support their claims for reparations for the damages caused by colonialism and slavery.

15.- The São Paulo Forum supports the Haitian people and their opposition to a new military mission in Haiti. Any action on Haiti must ensure its right to sovereignty and self-determination with a government democratically elected by its people.

16.- We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the assassination attempt against the Vice President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.

17.- We call upon all political forces, national and regional parliaments, to jointly discuss: a) the issue of the foreign debt; b) the need to create a common macroeconomic stabilization fund; c) the implementation of the Bank of the South; d) study the possibilities of forming regional production chains; e) the construction of a common scientific and technical platform; and f) the increase of trade between our countries.

18.- We express our rejection and condemnation of the neo-fascist currents that attempt to destroy Latin American and Caribbean democracies, in their most varied



expressions, including the campaigns of corporate media groups against popular political leadership, the manipulation of the institutions of justice against progressive parties and leaders.

19.- The social policies of the progressive governments demonstrated their effectiveness and sense of justice, and such experiences made clear the limits and incapacity of the neoliberal recipes prescribed by the IMF and the World Bank, against which the Latin American peoples rose up in powerful social movements, with struggles in all fields that have also been expressed in the electoral arena, with exemplary victories of the popular and revolutionary forces.

20.- The setbacks experienced in recent years in those countries where the right wing has taken the government away from the progressive and leftist forces are an indisputable proof of the need to maintain unity, cohesion, mobilization and popular participation in defense of social justice and the national interest.

21.- We undertake, as a space for the political articulation of left-wing parties and social movements, the essential task of uniting all democratic currents and popular organizations that fight for sovereignty, participatory democracy, equality and social justice.

**São Paulo Forum
Working Group**