Cumaná, Venezuela

We, the Heads of State and Government of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela, member countries of ALBA, consider that the Draft Declaration of the 5th Summit of the Americas is insufficient and unacceptable for the following reasons:

- The Declaration does not provide answers to the Global Economic Crisis, even though this crisis constitutes the greatest challenge faced by humanity in the last decades and is the most serious threat of the current times to the welfare of our peoples.

- The Declaration unfairly excludes Cuba, without mentioning the consensus in the region condemning the blockade and isolation to which the people and the government of Cuba have incessantly been exposed in a criminal manner.

For this reason, we, the member countries of ALBA believe that there is no consensus for the adoption of this draft declaration because of the reasons above stated, and accordingly, we propose to hold a thorough debate on the following topics:

1. Capitalism is leading humanity and the planet to extinction. What we are experiencing is a global economic crisis of a systemic and structural nature, not another cyclic crisis. Those who think that with a taxpayer money injection and some regulatory measures this crisis will end are wrong. The financial system is in crisis because it trades bonds with six times the real value of the assets and services produced and rendered in the world, this is not a "system regulation failure", but a integrating part of the capitalist system that speculates with all assets and values with a view to obtain the maximum profit possible. Until now, the economic crisis has generated over 100 million additional hungry persons and has slashed over 50 million jobs, and these figures show an upward trend.

2. Capitalism has caused the environmental crisis, by submitting the necessary conditions for life in the planet, to the predominance of market and profit. Each year we consume one third more of what the planet is able to regenerate. With this squandering binge of the capitalist system, we are going to need two planets Earth by the year 2030.

3. The global economic crisis, climate change, the food crisis and the energy crisis are the result of the decay of capitalism, which threatens to end life and the planet. To avert this outcome, it is necessary to develop and model an alternative to the capitalist system. A system based on:

   - solidarity and complementarity, not competition;
   - a system in harmony with our mother earth and not plundering of human resources;
   - a system of cultural diversity and not cultural destruction and imposition of cultural values and lifestyles alien to the realities of our countries;
   - a system of peace based on social justice and not on imperialist policies and wars;
   - in summary, a system that recovers the human condition of our societies and peoples and does not reduce them to mere consumers or merchandise.

4. As a concrete expression of the new reality of the continent, we, Caribbean and Latin American peoples and nations believe that the struggle to end the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba, including the implementation of the so-called "Helms-Burton Act", is a task of everyone. It is also our moral and political obligation to recognize Cuba as a model of sustainable development, and as a target of the political, economic and cultural hegemony of the United States. In this sense, we, the member states of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), invite our citizens to donate their personal contributions and, in this way, to raise the solidarity with Cuba.

The Declaration of Cumaná

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ALBA
8. Solutions to the energy, food and climate change crises should be comprehensive and independent. We cannot solve one problem by creating new ones in fundamental areas for life. For instance, the widespread use of agricultural fuels has had adverse effects on food prices and the use of essential resources, such as water, land and forests.

9. We condemn the discrimination against migrants in any of its forms. Migration is a human right, not a crime. Therefore, we request the United States government to urgently reform its migration policies in order to stop deportations and massive raids and allow for reunification of families. We further demand the withdrawal of the Department of Homeland Security’s ‘Secure Communities’ program, which has contributed to the disproportionate targeting of migrants and communities of color, and the implementation of a just immigration policy that respects human rights.

10. Basic education, health, water, energy and telecommunications services should be declared human rights and cannot be subject to private deals or marketed by the World Trade Organization. These services are and should be essentially public.

11. We wish a world where all big and small countries exercise the same rights and responsibilities. The principle of self-determination of peoples, as the only legitimate means for discussion and assessment of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the hemisphere, should be applied. In line with this, the United States should ratify and adhere to the Declaration of Havana that establishes the right to self-determination of peoples as a fundamental principle of the United Nations. To accomplish this, we ask the new government of the United States to undertake actions of interference and intervention against our countries.

12. With regard to the US blockade against Cuba and the exclusion of the latter from the Inter-American System, we request the new Government of the United States to abandon the same token, we request the new Government of the United States to abandon that has characterized the actions of the US governments throughout history, and to respect the UN resolutions on the need to end the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba.

13. We demand the respect for the rights of Cubans to choose their own government and to determine their own future. We support the right of Cubans to participate in the political life of their country and in the development of mechanisms for dialogue and accommodation.

14. We call for the immediate end of the US embargo against Cuba, which violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cuba as a member of the United Nations, and the right of Cuba to determine its own path of development.

15. We are firm in our belief that the change, where everybody reposes hope, can only be achieved if we work together and promote social justice. Cooperation should be established without conditions and fit in the broader agenda of the region; it is a member of the Rio Group and other hemispheric organizations and represents the interests of its people.

16. We reaffirm the need to support Nicaragua’s government in its fight against Wasserman and the US blockade against Cuba. We call for the United States to end the economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba, and to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and self-determination of Nicaragua.

17. We condemn the imposition of economic sanctions and blockade against Cuba, which have resulted in the suffering of the Cuban people.

18. We condemn the imposition of economic sanctions and blockade against Cuba, which have resulted in the suffering of the Cuban people. These actions are in violation of the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States. We call for the lifting of these sanctions and for the removal of Cuba from the list of states that violate international law.

19. We demand the respect for the rights of Cubans to choose their own government and to determine their own future. We support the right of Cubans to participate in the political life of their country and in the development of mechanisms for dialogue and accommodation.

20. We reaffirm the need to support Nicaragua’s government in its fight against Wasserman and the US blockade against Cuba. We call for the United States to end the economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba, and to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and self-determination of Nicaragua.
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We, the Heads of State and Government of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Venezuela, representatives of a growing number of our peoples, meeting in the framework of the Summit of the Americas, declare:

1. Capitalism is leading humanity and the planet to extinction. What we are witnessing is the result of the decay of capitalism, which threatens to end life and the planet. To stop this process and to save our planet, its people and the future, we must break with the system of the world capitalist market, which has produced and rendered in the world, this is not a
another cyclic crisis. Those who think that with a taxpayer money injection and some

debts will meet in the United Nations Conference on the International Financial Crisis to be

4. Financial institutions are designed to make profits and maintain their power and control over the capital market; they are instruments of domination of one country over another and they play a role in the arrangement of dependence and financial structures. They are the same that fail to allocate the small sums of money to

5. Economic and social integration, in which developing countries can embark upon a growth model which does not repeat the
defaults of the capitalist policies of the 19th century, which resulted in the elimination of local markets, a reduction in the production and distribution of goods and services which was the foundation for economic growth.

6. The 2008 financial crisis has served as a pretext for the consolidation of the hegemony of the United States of America, which exacerbates the economic, social and human crises in the Americas in the midst of a worsening environmental situation. The United States of America, in the guise of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is seeking to co-opt a part of the Latin American and Caribbean economic space in an attempt to promote "free trade" and "financial globalization," which has transformed the region into a regional market for foreign capital, and has led to the intensification of the circulation of capital and the concentration of production.

7. As for climate change, developed countries are in an environmental debt to the

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11. We wish a world where all, big and small, countries have the same rights and

12. With regard to the US blockade against Cuba and the exclusion of the latter from the
Summit of the Americas, we, the member states of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America, reassert the Declaration adopted by all Latin American and Caribbean countries last December 16, 2008, on the need to end the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America on Cuba, including the implementation of the so-called Helms-Burton Act. The declaration sets forth in its fundamental paragraphs the following:

"CONSIDERING the resolutions approved by the United Nations General Assembly on the need to finish the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba, and the statements on such blockade, which have been approved in numerous international meetings.

"WE AFFIRM that the application of unilateral, coercive measures affecting the wellbeing of peoples and hindering integration processes is unacceptable when defending free exchange and the transparent practice of international trade.

"WE STRONGLY REPEL the enforcement of laws and measures contrary to International Law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, and we urge the Government of the United States of America to finish such enforcement.

"WE REQUEST the Government of the United States of America to comply with the provisions set forth in 17 successive resolutions approved by the United Nations General Assembly and put an end to the economic, trade and financial blockade on Cuba."

Additionally, we consider that the attempts at imposing the isolation of Cuba have failed, as nowadays Cuba forms an integral part of the Latin American and Caribbean region; it is a member of the Rio Group and other hemispheric organizations and mechanisms, which develops a policy of cooperation, in solidarity with the countries in the hemisphere; which promotes full integration of Latin American and Caribbean peoples. Therefore, there is no reason whatsoever to justify its exclusion from the mechanism of the Summit of the Americas.

13. Developed countries have spent at least USD 8 billion to rescue a collapsing financial structure. They are the same that fail to allocate the small sums of money to attain the Millennium Goals or 0.7% of the GDP for the Official Development Assistance. Never before the hypocrisy of the wording of rich countries had been so apparent. Cooperation should be established without conditions and fit in the agendas of recipient countries by making arrangements easier; providing access to the resources, and prioritizing social inclusion issues.

14. The legitimate struggle against drug trafficking and organized crime, and any other form of the so-called "new threats" must not be used as an excuse to undertake actions of interference and intervention against our countries.

15. We are firmly convinced that the change, where everybody reposes hope, can come only from organization, mobilization and unity of our peoples.

As the Liberator wisely said:

Unity of our peoples is not a mere illusion of men, but an inexorable decree of destiny. — Simón Bolívar