

6th EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ALBA-TCP POLITICAL COUNCIL Caracas, August 8th, 2017

The Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA–TCP), gathered at the 6th Extraordinary Meeting of the ALBA–TCP Political Council, held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on August 8th, 2017.

We recognize and congratulate the Venezuelan people for having accomplished a successful democratic day, the past July 30th, 2017. We are aware that holding and participating in these elections represents an authentic act of sovereignty, and the Venezuelans are the only entitled to overcome their difficulties, without any interference, threats or interventionist constraints;

We reiterate that the unilateral economic sanctions imposed against the Venezuelan people are a flagrant violation of international law and human rights, as well as an unacceptable interventionist implementation, whose only purpose is to directly hinder the Bolivarian people and government of Venezuela in order to change the regime;

Considering the continuous direct and indirect efforts to attack the peace and sovereignty of the people and government of Venezuela, the international media smear campaign and unilateral actions which contravene the international law, thus negatively affecting the Venezuelan economy today;

Highlighting that the historical enemies of the Latin American and the Caribbean integration have started a non-conventional war against the governments and people who have most earnestly defended it, whose sole aim is to destroy the progress made in the field of regional integration, to divide us and to impose the neoliberal economic model again, in order to dominate and control our wealth and to subjugate us to transnational interests.

We recall the Declaration of the 14th ALBA-TCP Summit of Heads of State and Government, adopted in Caracas, Venezuela, on March 5th, 2017, where it is stated: "The defense of Venezuela and its revolution does not only concern Venezuelans. It is a matter involving all of us who fight for the real independence of Latin America and the Caribbean. The 21st century Ayacucho Battle is being fought in Venezuela today."

We reject the arbitrary and illegal sanctions imposed by the Government of the United States against Venezuelan citizens, including the constitutional Nicolas Maduro Moros. The ALBA -TCP countries warn that the same mistakes that once led to failure are being made again.

We state that these actions against Venezuela are far from producing a solution in favor of the people, and only aim to generate more instability, by encouraging the most radical sectors of the Venezuelan opposition. The countries and international organizations that foster violence and chaos shall be accountable for the consequences.

