

---

## **SPECIAL DECLARATION 7: ON THE RETURN TO THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY BY THE US NAVAL BASE IN GUANTANAMO**

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on occasion of the 5th Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on January 25th, 2017;

1. Reiterating their commitment to multilateralism and to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law, including sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States;
2. Reaffirming the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> CELAC Summit in Havana, Cuba on January 29th, 2014;
3. Reaffirming the Special Declaration on the Return to the Republic of Cuba of the territory occupied by the US Naval Base in Guantanamo, agreed at its 4<sup>th</sup> CELAC Summit, in Quito, Ecuador, on January 27th, 2016;
4. Aware of the existence, for more than a century, of the United States Naval Base in Guantanamo, territory of the Republic of Cuba, which is constantly claimed by its people;
5. Acting in the light of the process towards the normalization of relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America, which is an element that contributes to the stability of Latin America and the Caribbean;
6. We believe that the return to the Republic of Cuba of the territory that the United States Naval Base occupies at Guantanamo, as it has been repeatedly claimed by the Cuban people and government, should be a relevant element of the process of normalization of relations between both countries, through a bilateral dialogue that adheres to International Law.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th, 2017.