



SPECIAL DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO OF THE II MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CELAC-CHINA FORUM ON THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

1. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presented to the CELAC Foreign Ministers on the Belt and Road initiative, which offers new conceptions, injects renewed dynamism and establishes a new platform for mutually beneficial cooperation between China and the various countries, and invites Latin-American and Caribbean countries to join.
2. The Chinese Party expressed that this initiative is being widely shared by the international community and considers that Latin American and Caribbean countries are part of the natural extension of the Maritime Silk Route and are indispensable participants in international cooperation of the Belt and Road.
3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of China highlighted that the Belt and Road Initiative is underpinned by the principles of advancing cooperation on the basis of consultations on an equal and inclusive footing, to jointly execute the projects and share the benefits among the countries involved, the spirit of cooperation, openness, inclusion, mutual learning and shared profits, is aimed at promoting coordination, interconnectivity of infrastructures, facilitation of trade, cooperation on financial matters and mutual understanding in order to promote and expand cooperation between the Parties.
4. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC welcomed, with interest, the presentation of the Chinese Foreign Minister on the Belt and Road initiative for deepening cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean Countries and China in the economic, trade, investment, cultural and tourism sectors, among others.
5. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs reiterated their interest to reinforce cooperation, and requested ECLAC to continue deepening its studies in the frame of cooperation between CELAC and China.

Santiago, January 22, 2018.