



## STATEMENT

### **5th meeting of the political council of the bolivarian alliance for the peoples of our america - peoples' trade agreement (alba-tcp)**

On Friday, March 4th 2011, the Political Council of the ALBA – TCP met in order to establish the Political Agenda and the Action Plan for this year, as well as to review the topics to be discussed in the next ALBA – TCP summit.

ALBA – TCP representatives agreed on holding the 11th ALBA – TCP Summit in Caracas, Venezuela on April 3rd, which will continue fostering the political processes of its member countries. They are guiding union and emancipation in the region, giving the highest significance to the action of social movements and establishing a new inclusive trade pattern and reducing inequalities through the inclusion of new economic actors.

The agenda of this presidential meeting will include a revision of the topics in the international, regional and internal political juncture of each ALBA – TCP member. This revision will firstly establish initiatives of reciprocal support.

In this regard, Ecuador and Nicaragua will present a proposal to hold a meeting of progressive political parties and forces in the region, in order to improve political articulation and action of our movements.

Increasing prominence of social factors will also be emphasized through the activation of the Council of Social Movements to be installed during this summit.

Afterwards, it was agreed that the 11th ALBA – TCP Summit will be the scenario for the endorsement of trade agreements between Bolivia and Venezuela, as well as between Ecuador and Venezuela, which will substitute those of the Andean Community.

This occasion will serve to review the achievements reached regarding the development and implementation of the Peoples' Trade Agreement.

During the remaining time until the next summit, ALBA – TCP bodies will develop the following chronogram of activities:

1. 4th Meeting of the Council of Economic Complementation

Date: Saturday, March 12th, 2011

Place: Quito, Ecuador

2. 3rd Meeting of the Social Council

Date: Saturday, March 19th, 2011

Place: Cochabamba, Bolivia

3. 6th Political Council (Meeting of Foreign Ministers)

Date: Saturday, April 2nd, 2011

Place: Caracas, Venezuela

4. 1st Meeting of the Council of Social Movements

Date: Saturday, April 2nd, 2011

Place: Caracas, Venezuela

Afterwards, after a revision of the International juncture, the representatives of the ALBA – TCP member countries expressed their strong rejection of the intervention pretensions which are currently threatening the Libyan people and intend to seize its natural resources.

In this regard, ALBA –TCP representatives expressed their support to a solution to overcome the crisis in Libya based on dialog and peace. Therefore, in a special statement, they declared their support to the peace initiative presented by President Hugo Chávez, since it is based on the principles of non-interventionism, respect for sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples.

Similarly, the Political Council reiterated its interest to maintain a permanent follow-up of the evolution of the political situation in Honduras, considering the constant repression of the people's resistance and systematic violation of the human rights of the Honduran people.

Regarding Haiti, ALBA reaffirmed their will to continue developing special plans to support the Haitian people which contribute to the overcoming of its complex and difficult situation.

The emergency situation in Bolivia caused by the rains was also discussed by the Political Council, which agreed on a special statement of solidarity and support to the Bolivian government and people.

Finally, the Political Council reiterated its support to the organization of the Summit of Latin American and Caribbean States on July 5th and 6th, 2011 with the conviction that this meeting will start a new phase in the union of our peoples.

**(ALBA-TCP) March 4th, 2011**