



**SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE INITIATIVE OF ERECTING A PERMANENT MEMORIAL IN HONOUR OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE**

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Havana, Cuba, on the occasion of the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2014,

Recalling the tragedy and horrors of the inhuman system of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which uprooted from their homes 15 to 20 million men, women and children, who were shipped and traded as cargo to the Americas, receiving an inhuman, unfair and despicable treatment and subjected to torture, abuse and forced labour;

Acknowledging that Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, one of the gravest crimes against humanity, has not been given a satisfactory degree of acknowledgement and that too little is known about this inhuman system, the lasting consequences of which continue to be felt in many parts of today's society;

Recognizing the importance of educating present and future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of Slavery in ensuring that this dark period in human history is never repeated;

Welcoming the increased attention that the Permanent Memorial Initiative at the United Nations and its associated activities have brought to the issue of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade;

Decide to endorse the initiative to erect at a place of prominence and accessibility at the United Nations Headquarters, a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade;

Encourage those states that have not yet done so to make a contribution to the Fund established for the Permanent Memorial;

Commit to ensuring that such a heinous system is never allowed to be repeated, and in this regard, we further commit to give support to the completion of the Permanent Memorial Initiative;

Havana, January 29, 2014