



**SPECIAL DECLARATION
ON THE ISSUE OF REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY AND THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE
PEOPLES**

We, 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,

Acknowledging that slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims, and further acknowledging that slavery and the slave trade, especially the transatlantic slave trade, are a crime against humanity and are among the major sources and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and native peoples were victims of these acts and continue to be victims of their consequences;

1. Recognize the enduring and nefarious legacy of genocide of native peoples, slavery and the plundering of resources and its impact on the conditions of underdevelopment in many countries of the region;
2. Support wholeheartedly a swift, action-oriented and good-faith engagement with those colonizing States responsible of the genocide of native peoples and African enslavement in the region, with the sponsorship and organization of the State with a view to identifying just and effective means to provide reparations for the impact of those serious violations of human rights that are a crime against humanity, to which they are morally obliged;
3. Welcome the formation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission, and notes its ongoing work to define the issues and challenges arising from the centuries-long Atlantic slave trade and the genocide committed against indigenous populations, as well as the key areas identified by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission: chronic diseases, education, cultural deprivation, psychological trauma and scientific and technological backwardness;

4. Recall paragraphs 98 to 106 of the Durban Declaration, and in particular, the importance of the “provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, and compensatory and other measures at the national, regional and international levels, aimed at countering the continued impact of slavery and the slave trade”;
5. Decide to keep this issue on CELAC’s agenda for periodic updates and the necessary follow-up actions.

Havana, January 29, 2014

