SPECIAL DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
ALBA-TCP VII SUMMIT TOWARDS THE XV COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol represent the current binding legal regime for the treatment of global warming, the result of consensus reached through the efforts of the international community to address this environmental problem, over the recent years in history. These legally binding instruments should be maintained and cannot be superseded or replaced by new agreements that erode contracted obligations. The countries of ALBA categorically denounce the attempts of some developed countries to renounce the Kyoto Protocol. Is, within this framework, that we will demand more serious and ambitious commitments of quantified reduction of emissions.

2. In this regard the strict observance of the mandates established for the two Special Working Groups within the framework of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-CLA and AWG-KP) is required. We, the countries that integrate the ALBA-TCP reiterate that we will insist on transparent negotiations directed by the Party States.

3. The environmental crisis resulting from increased temperatures in the atmosphere is the result of the current patterns of production and consumption in developed countries
and above all the lack of political will to comply with commitments and obligations under both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. For this reason, we reject the attempts to transfer responsibilities to developing countries, we demand our right to development in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment to be respected and we place an urgent call to the ANNEX I parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, so that in an efficient and convincing way, they demonstrate their political will for the full compliance of their responsibilities.

4. The developing countries that form part of the ALBA- TCP, suffer from the chronic and gradual impact of climate change and its adverse effects. This situation is having repercussions and is paralyzing our progress in the sustainable development in harmony with nature and the fight against poverty, for this reason we demand that the adaptation debt to be honored by developed countries.

5. Developed countries have a climate debt, within the framework of a greater ecological debt with developing countries, due to their historical responsibility of emissions and adaptation actions that we are doomed to perform because of the global warming that they have caused. This climate debt should be recognized and honored through the dispositions of the existing climate change regime: a) substantial reductions in their domestic emissions of greenhouse gases to be determined based on the portion of global emissions required by developing countries to achieve their economic and social development needs, eradicate poverty and to achieve the right to development, b) honoring its commitments for an effective technology transfer and c) guarantees in the provision of additional and necessary financial resources as appropriate, predictable and sustainable, stressing that the requirements for
adaptation of developing countries has increased as a result of the environmental crisis and emphasizing that our countries need this climate debt payment to enable their mitigation actions.

6. We call to the attention to the explicit intention to make prevail new principles and concepts that pursue disregard and violation of the existing climate change regime, such as the use of markets. The current proposals of the developed countries to address climate change as a purely economic affair, distorts the principle of “the one that contaminates pays” to “the one that pays, contaminates”. We have to remember that that trust in the markets, in which we are asked to trust as funding source to attend climate change, have conducted to the devastation of the lives of millions and has demonstrated its failure. The need to provide adequate funding sources to attend the challenges of climate change is not a market issue, but an international obligation that is judicially binding that can and must be demanded within the international judicial system.

7. The trend in developed countries to promote the adoption of an international baseline "Business as usual" violates the principles of the Convention of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, threatens against the interests of preserving our Mother Earth and, if adopted, will limit our right to development.

8. For these reasons, the country members of the ALBA-TCP will join efforts to ensure that in the next Conference of Parties on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, (COP-15) prevails the consistency, convergence and cohesion of the positions of our countries, for the existing international legal regime for climate change to be respected and consolidated.