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**Asamblea de los Pueblos del Caribe
Assembly of Caribbean People
Assemblée du Peuple Caraïbe
Assemblee van het Caraïbisch Volk
Asamble Pep Karayib**

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FINAL DECLARATION

OF

THE 7TH ASSEMBLY OF CARIBBEAN PEOPLES

We come from a rich experience of 23 years following the founding of this space for popular articulation created in 1994, born out of an initiative of the progressive sectors and Unions of Trinidad and Tobago. In 2017 the 7th ACP was developed with the firm resolve to continue its progression outlining guidelines and positions to collectively face the global crisis of capitalism promoting sovereign integration processes guided by a good quality of life for our peoples.

This 7th Assembly was dedicated to Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and Jesús Adón. The nature of the current crisis with its multiple interconnected dimensions demands a return to the path of revolutionary ruptures that inspire us with legacies and valuable teachings for current and future generations.

Despite the depth of the global crisis, it is evident that capitalist logic provides no solution to it. However, we are convinced that capitalism is not lacking in crises, but lacks a revolution.

The savage character of neoliberal capitalism projects us into a time of wars. We are facing a process of imperial remilitarization of the Caribbean basin, plagued by the presence of a large number of military bases, military infrastructure and the armies of the United States, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands, often disguised behind alleged cooperation agreements and humanitarian interventions. Colombia's recent incorporation into NATO coupled with the construction of new military bases present danger and serious threats for the region. Our Assembly condemns the criminalization of social protest and the use of force that popular movements and social leaders are constantly subjected to. For this reason, we extend our solidarity to the struggles of Caribbean trade unions expressing direct support for the struggle of the General Union of Guadeloupian Workers (UGTG), particularly Comrade Elie Domota.

We are a rebellious people who have historically demonstrated our capacity to challenge the world order by establishing national projects radically opposed to the dominant logic of mass accumulation.

We are in the middle of a violent crisis that is greatly affecting the popular sectors, workers and all the Caribbean people. This crisis should reinforce our commitment to unite as a Caribbean people to face it together and strengthen our capacity and determination to transform this crisis into an opportunity to create a Caribbean civilization based on sovereignty and the well-being of our peoples.

During the 7th Assembly and at previous meetings, through rich and intense debates we brought to the fore the historical struggles of our peoples against oppression and exploitation, highlighting the traditions of the maroons and the great revolutionary victories of Haiti and Cuba in 1804 and 1959. In this current year, 2017 invites us to reflect on the glorious Russian Revolution of 1917, the 150th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of Karl Marx's *Capital*, the centenary of the publication of Lenin's work on imperialism and the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Che Guevara.

There is no better tribute to Commander Fidel Castro Ruz than to dedicate this Caribbean meeting to his legacy, his vocation and the extraordinary creativity that allowed him to renew internationalism. To pronounce his name is and will always be a call to walk in the spirit of historic moments. His example gives us the certainty that it is possible, in the worst of scenarios, to turn defeats into victories.

We meet for the second time in this land that witnessed a bloody US military intervention in April 1965, where the blood of heroic Dominicans, including Francisco Camaño and other internationalists, gave birth to the ideals of revolutionary struggle, a land that also treasures bravery and examples of great heroines like Mama Tingó and the Mirabal sisters. Young Haitian revolutionaries like Jacques Viaud gave their lives defending the dignity of this Dominican nation.

Representatives from trade unions, political organizations, feminists, ecologists, peasants and youth movements, as well as other social and popular movements from 15 countries of the Caribbean region (Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Dominican Republic) and other invited countries (Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela) met in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from October 26 to 30, 2017, after having responded to the call to continue the struggle for Caribbean integration based on sovereignty and solidarity. The Assembly recognized that integration must be centred on individuals, communities, the peoples and their fundamental interests as articulating axes.

We are determined to reject and continue the fight against free trade agreements and the neoliberal capitalist economic models of globalization that contribute to the displacement of our territories and our societies, reinforcing the domination of the imperialist powers and transnational corporations. Participants welcomed the magnificent work promoted by Hugo Chávez, the driving force for UNASUR, CELAC, PETROCARIBE and many other initiatives in the path of building food, energy and financial sovereignty for our region.

This seventh meeting reaffirms the objectives of the ACP to support and contribute to the strengthening of Caribbean social movements and organizations, emphasizing our common direction and articulation to promote our Caribbean identity. Its essence will be based on respect for diversity and resistance against all attacks of colonial domination and its various forms of oppression, criminalization and its new forms of recolonization. In particular, we call for the cessation of femicide in countries of the region.

The participants of the 7th APC confirm that climate change is real and is an existential threat for all the peoples of the Caribbean and the world. They also recognized that in the advancement of the capitalist development model, human activity is actually harming the environment. The Assembly is in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Thomas, Dominica, St. Martin, Guadeloupe, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti who suffered the loss of hundreds of lives and great economic damage due to the passage of 3 hurricanes of great intensity. Many of these islands were practically devastated. The consequences of climate change continue to affect our fragile ecosystems every day. The delegates of the 7th Assembly demand the creation of climate refugee status in the face of such extreme events as those that recently happened in the Caribbean. We must change the system, not the environment!

We condemn the treatment reserved for the Puerto Rican citizens, we demand the withdrawal of the cabotage Jones law and respect for our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters. We denounce the horrible management of this serious humanitarian crisis by the Trump administration, highlighting the theory of disaster capitalism, conditions that embolden our demand for the end of the colonial status of this sister island. The ACP considers that it is a shame that in the 21st century there are still countries and territories under the colonial yoke, such as Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, Puerto Rico and others. Our Assembly requires that the United Nations Decolonization Committee include all the non-autonomous Caribbean countries under this status. We strongly demand the independence and sovereignty for these peoples. We also extend our feelings to the struggles for independence with the people of Palestine and Western Sahara.

In almost all Caribbean countries, a seemingly endless debt crisis continues, which has led to the violation of the economic, social and cultural rights of our people; the consolidation of massive structural poverty; the attack on worker and union; the destruction of the agricultural sector and the marginalization of farmers. We therefore echo the words of Fidel Castro at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 when he said: "Pay the ecological debt and not the external debt. Make hunger disappear and not man".

The 7th APC is convinced that the reparation processes for the crime of slavery, as well as of the criminal processes of looting and oppression for over 5 centuries of domination, are fundamental tools for the reconstruction of the Caribbean. We must rebuild our collective memory.

The participants of the VII Assembly of Peoples of the Caribbean reaffirm our commitment to support alternative integration projects, in particular the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our Americas-Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA - TCP), PETROCARIBE and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The aforementioned spaces promote popular integration projects and critical social advances. Our delegates have suggested that at every meeting of Caribbean integration such as AEC, CARICOM, etc. there should be representation by the ACP.

We express our support and solidarity with the Haitian people in their struggle for the withdrawal of MINUJUSTH, heir to MINUSTAH, responsible for crimes and destruction of over 13 years, including more than 800,000 affected by cholera and 20,000 deaths. This foreign presence, imposed against the will of the Haitian people, is an affront to the legacy of the great anti-slavery Revolution in that country. In this regard, we commit ourselves to take action in our countries to express a strong condemnation of the imperialist occupation in Haiti and to demand justice and reparations. In this regard, the ACP affirms that, having formally recognized the United Nations' responsibility for the introduction of this disease, we demand that it fulfil with absolute urgency its promise to stop the epidemic and facilitate the construction of adequate sanitation infrastructure and the assurance of a supply of potable drinking water.

We express our support for the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela and celebrate the victory achieved in the election of the National Constituent Assembly, as well as the overwhelming success in the recent governor elections. Venezuela continues to face continuous and permanent attempts to destabilize the Bolivarian process and ignore the sovereign decision of the Venezuelan people by the government of the United States and the opposition. The Assembly is committed to defending the Bolivarian Revolution and to

demand the unconditional lifting of the United States blockade against Cuba. No to the blockade! WE ARE ALL VENEZUELA!

In light of the aggressive response by the ultraconservative right wing to reverse the progress made by the progressive movement in our continent, it has become even more important to strengthen and deepen the processes of political and ideological education within our organizations and in the entire region.

The ACP confirms that Food Sovereignty is key to guarantee self-determination of our countries. The fight against GMOs, agro-toxins and the industrialization of agriculture, by capitalist logic, constitutes one of the greatest challenges for humanity in its efforts to redefine its consumption patterns and its relationship with nature. The principles of environmental justice, the defence of peasant agriculture and our eco-systems should guide us. It is necessary to reinforce the systematic struggle for land occupancy.

The ACP declares its projects to mobilize in the fight for decent housing and to promote cooperatives of mutual aid and economic initiatives that allow the reconstruction of the outlook of everyday life and a relationship with the environment and communities. The defence of the rights of impoverished urban dwellers must be a priority for our movements.

The 7th Assembly salutes the decade of the black people and Afro-descendants decreed by the United Nations for the period 2015-2024. The Assembly recommends that social movements of each country form wide platforms to support this initiative and use it to promote measures against all forms of segregation, discrimination, marginalization based on racism. The Afro-Caribbean roots of most of our countries must be part of the efforts to build new paradigms. Our organizations are preparing for the culmination of this campaign in Haiti in 2024.

The Assembly organized a tribute to the Creole language and its enormous contribution in the processes of emancipation and cultural resistance in our region. The defence of cultural rights must be a central axis of struggle in a world that suffers the permanent aggressions of the dominant media order and multiple disciplinary measures to try to legitimize the culture of death through capitalism and its induced behaviours.

In the Caribbean region, as in other regions of the world, migratory flows generate despair and suffering in our societies. These migrations are often the result of colonial policies of looting, subjection and racial discrimination. We must transform our tears into a drive for struggle and demand the complete free movement of people, these movements today are only limited to the flow of capital and goods. The struggle for the rights of migrants will have a permanent place among Caribbean organizations.

We denounce the 168-13 ruling, adopted by the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic that denationalizes hundreds of thousands of citizens creating a very dangerous precedent for migrants from all over the world. This legal provision must be eliminated. This struggle must be articulated in defence of the rights of migrant workers en masse. In this sense, the member organizations of the ACP commit themselves to work for a more active presence of the networks of the Caribbean Diaspora in our activities, campaigns and projects.

The 7th ACP will build a massive awareness campaign and foster political education. It is essential to unleash a new offensive from the popular sectors against the fascist ideas that try to infect many regions of the planet. In this sense, the construction of TV Caribe and the development of new communication strategies emerge as an urgent need.

The 7th Assembly was preceded by very fruitful meetings of youth organizations, women's organizations, trade unions, among others. These spaces were generators of new agreements and work projections among networks that work in these sectors. Also, for the first time in our region, there was a meeting of the Caribbean organizations present in ALBA Social Movements, a continental space for articulation that has made great advances in recent years. Eight Caribbean countries have also been able to deepen their ties with the Continent and structure work in our sub-region.

Each and every one of the participants in this important process expressed the need to prepare a concrete plan of actions and struggles around the priorities defined in this declaration. The new world we want and the other possible Caribbean must be built in the heat of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, anti-colonial, anti-patriarchal, anti-racist, eco-feminist projects, safeguarding our rich cultural history with work coordinated with revolutionary movements and unity in action. In unity, there is strength.

Finally, we must underline the hospitality and the work developed by the Dominican organizing committee, especially all the members of the Dominican chapter of the ACP.

The integrated Caribbean family committed to the construction of socialism is expanding. The 7th ACP had a resounding success with the participation of 19 countries, the presentation of proposals that stimulated sound collective reflection on complex problems and that have sown the seeds for a future characterized by rebellion and determination. We must also highlight the presence of important networks: CLOC-Farmers' Lane (*Vía Campesina*), Cry of the Excluded, International Alliance of Inhabitants (AIH), International Democratic Federation for women (FDIM), FSM-Americas, Network of artists,

intellectuals and social movements In Defence of Humanity (EDH), Popular Education Council for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEAAL), the network of popular educators of the Martin Luther King Center (CMMLK), as well as the messages received from Jubilee South America, the Latin American Political and Economy Society (SEPLA), the Working Group: Crisis and global economy of CLACSO.

We call for the uniting of this Assembly once again in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019.

To a United and Sovereign Caribbean!

We shall overcome!

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
29th October 2017.

OUTLINE OF ACTION PLAN AND CALENDAR

- Guarantee the presence of Caribbean organizations and movements in
 - the Continental Conference for Democracy and against Neoliberalism, in Montevideo, Uruguay from November 16 to 18, 2017.
 - The People's Summit of the COP23 meeting in Germany from November 6 to 17, 2017
- Motivate the presence of Caribbean social organizations and movements at
 - the People's Summit in the framework of the ninth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Buenos Aires from December 10 to 13, 2017
 - International Assembly of movements and organizations of the Peoples, Caracas - early March 2018.
- Ensure the presence of Caribbean social organizations and movements at
 - the Summit of the Peoples in the framework of the 8th Summit of the Americas, Peru, April 9-14, 2018.
 - Ninth regional meeting of solidarity with Cuba, Nicaragua - July 2018.
 - Meeting of the Sao Paulo Forum in Havana, July 2018.
 - 8th World Social Forum on Migration in Mexico at the end of 2018.