

## **SPECIAL DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATINAMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES ON THE NEED TO CREATE EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES OF PARAGUAY AS A LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRY**

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, for the Third Summit of the Latin American and Caribbean State Community (CELAC), held on 28 and 29 of January 2015,

Reaffirm the need to promote the growth and development of CELAC's member States and reduce the asymmetries that exist. In this context, they remark the importance of the functioning of effective mechanisms and their renewal to overcome the difficulties faced by Paraguay as a landlocked developing country, based on

Article 5 of GATT 94; Article 35 of the Ministerial Declaration at Doha; the MERCOSUR Decision CMC 33/07 and CMC 19/11 *Freedom of Transit*; and the following resolutions approved by the United Nations General Assembly: 55/22, Millennium Declaration; 56/180, Specific Actions Related to the Particular Needs and Problems of Landlocked Developing Countries; 63/2, Final Document of the Almaty Action Program half-term inspection: attention to the special needs of the landlocked developing countries within a new worldwide frame for cooperation related to transit transport for landlocked developing countries and of transit on fundamental matters for transport policies; the Joint Communiqués by MERCOSUR Member States and Associated States dated on June 29 2011 and December 2011; the Statement of Asuncion issued by the 21<sup>st</sup> Ibero-American Summit on October 29 2011; the Special Communiqué of the Latin American and the Caribbean Heads of State and Government on Paraguay as a landlocked developing country, issued by CELAC's Second Summit in Havana on January 28 and 29 2014; and the Special Communiqué on The Need to Create Effective Mechanisms for Overcoming the Difficulties of Paraguay as a Landlocked Developing Country, adopted at the 24th Ibero-American Summit held in Veracruz, Mexico on December 8 and 9 2014; the Declaration of Vienna and the Vienna Action Program for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted at the United Nations Second Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

They recognize that the Republic of Paraguay, despite its special status as a landlocked country, may be an important link between the Atlantic and the Pacific. In this regard, we undertake to give the necessary support for the implementation of effective measures that allow them to overcome their vulnerabilities and problems associated with that status, by providing free transit through the territory of the transit countries by all means of transport in accordance with the applicable rules of international law, and international conventions, bilateral agreements.

Belén, Costa Rica, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015