

# *Regional Leaders at CELAC Summit Pay Tribute to Fidel Castro*

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Bávaro, Dominican Republic, January 25 (RHC)- Regional leaders participating in the Fifth Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) have observed a minute of silence in honor of revolutionary leader, the late Fidel Castro.

In his opening remarks at the Summit's High Level Segment, President of the Dominican Republic Danilo Medina said that Fidel was "one of the pioneers of CELAC and a firm believer throughout his entire life in a united Latin America on the path toward progress."

The Dominican head of state also recalled Cuban National Hero José Martí, whom he called 'an essential figure when speaking about Our America'. Quoting Martí, President Medina stated that "nations that do not know one another should quickly become acquainted, as men who are to fight a common enemy."

"CELAC has a great duty, to always look out for the interests of our people," stated Medina. He added that it is not the time to isolate ourselves and go backwards, but to

strengthen ties amongst regional nations and people in order to advance. "We must find Latin American and Caribbean solutions to Latin American and Caribbean problems," he stated.

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