

# *Sisters and brothers united*

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By Pedro Martínez Pírez

Since my days as a young diplomat in the distant 1960, in the heights of Quito, I keep in one of my diaries a thought of Martin Fierro that now the CELAC ministerial summit in Buenos Aires brought to my memory.

"Let brothers be united because that is the first law; let them have true union in whatever time it may be, because if they fight among themselves they will be devoured by those outside".

The Community of Latin American States is a regional group created in 2010 and made up of 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, which does not include the United States or Canada.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, who attended the CELAC meeting in Buenos Aires, spoke at the meeting in favor of a united and supportive region, speaking with a single voice to defend its interests.

The Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed Cuba's firm will to preserve CELAC as a genuine Latin American and Caribbean mechanism for political coordination committed to regional integration.

Miguel Díaz-Canel, President of Cuba, wished Argentina success in its pro tempore presidency of CELAC, a mandate that will last for the next twelve months.

In his message, the Cuban leader also acknowledged the work of Mexico, the country that has presided over CELAC for the last two years, and reiterated that Cuba will continue to bet on unity within the Latin American and Caribbean diversity.

It is evident that the handover of the pro tempore presidency of CELAC favors the strengthening of ties between Mexico and Argentina, but poses challenges to the South American nation, especially to its President Alberto Fernández, since the performance of Andrés Manuel López Obrador at the head of CELAC was brilliant and firm.

It has been rightly said that Mexico revitalized CELAC and now hands over to Argentina a strengthened Community that rejected the historical dependence of the Organization of American States, the famous OAS, to Washington's interests.

And this handover from Mexico to Argentina also reminds us of Martí's apothegm that assures us that "America is one, from the Rio Bravo to Patagonia".

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