

# *Cuba and Bolivia move forward in strengthening their ties*

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By María Josefina Arce

The visit to Havana of Bolivian Foreign Minister Celinda Sosa Lunda reaffirmed the good state of existing relations between the two nations, strongly resumed after the return to power of MÁS, Movement Towards Socialism, and which had been interrupted after the 2019 coup d'état against then President Evo Morales.

Friendship, respect, cooperation and common views on various aspects of international affairs characterize the historic bilateral ties, which the two countries seek to further strengthen.

Sosa Lunda's visit has been a propitious occasion to continue working in this direction and to give a boost to economic and commercial ties to contribute to the welfare of both peoples.

In the meeting between the Bolivian Foreign Minister and the highest authorities of the Caribbean nation, the bilateral agreements were reviewed, while reiterating the willingness of the two countries to seek new ways and areas for collaboration.

Tourism is one of the spheres in which the country aspires to grow. On that path, at the end of last year, the "Cuba Única" campaign was presented in Bolivian territory, an initiative that is reinforced with a new air connection. The flight, operated by Boliviana de Aviación and which will have a weekly frequency, will link Havana with the city of Santa Cruz, capital of the department of the same name. Health has been at the center of cooperation between Cuba and Bolivia.

Although after the coup d'état of 2019 it was interrupted, Cuban doctors had already written a beautiful page of solidarity. Countless friends and immense gratitude left Cuban health professionals in Bolivian territory. The contribution of the largest of the Antilles was evident not only in the improvement of health indexes, but also with the study of people with disabilities and Operation Miracle, an ophthalmologic rehabilitation program aimed at the most vulnerable sectors.

The possibility for many young Bolivians to study medicine on Cuban soil has also been essential. This was emphasized by Sosa Lunda, who affirmed that if today they have community doctors, it is thanks to Cuba.

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**Radio Habana Cuba**