

# *Díaz-Canel at 8th CELAC Summit affirms Proclamation means hope for millions*

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Kingstown, March 1 (RHC) -- The President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, took the floor during his participation in the inaugural session of the VIII Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) which is in session this Friday in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"The Proclamation means hope for millions, whose main concern is survival in a world convulsed by violence and wars," the Cuban president said in his remarks.

Our Proclamation is very young, but it is undoubtedly a historic milestone in the equally young history of CELAC," Díaz-Canel said at the event marking the tenth anniversary of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

Cuba is particularly honored that the signing of this emblematic document by the heads of state and government of the 33 countries of the region took place at the Havana Summit, but the merit belongs to all, because only the will of all made it possible, said the head of state.

Supporting peace means defending the right of each people to freely choose its political model and its own path towards economic and social development, said Díaz-Canel in another part of his speech.

It concluded with a call to defend peace through dialogue in the face of differences, cooperation in the face of challenges and greater unity in the face of diversity.

Celac previously gathered its leaders during the meeting that saw its birth in Caracas, Venezuela (2011) and successively in the summits of Santiago, Chile (2013); Havana, Cuba (2014); Belen, Costa Rica (2015); Quito, Ecuador (2016); Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (2017); Mexico City, Mexico (2021) and Buenos Aires, Argentina (2023).

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