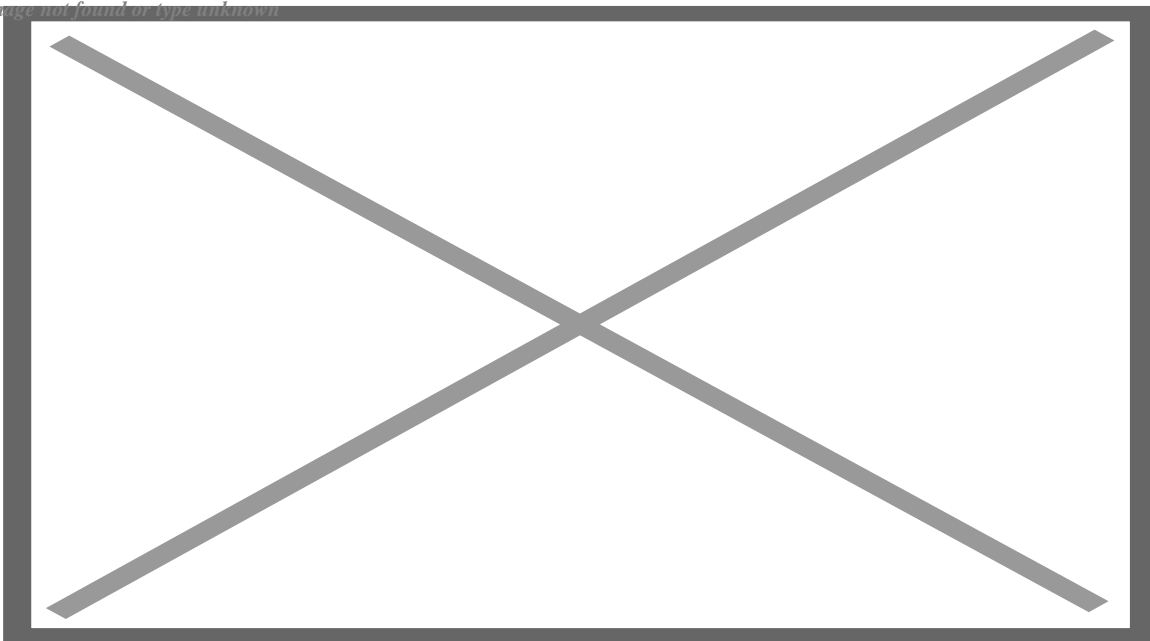


Saint Lucia rejects Washington's blockade against Cuba at XXIII ALBA-TCP Summit

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Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Phillip Pierre

Caracas, April 25 (RHC)-- The Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Phillip Pierre, reaffirmed the commitment of his country, as a full member of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People's Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP).

"We are friends of peace, we condemn interference, we fight against poverty, climate change and for that reason we joined the ALBA-TCP on January 8th," announced the first Caribbean leader in his speech this Wednesday during the XXIII Summit that brought together to heads of state of the continent.

At the conclave, Pierre rejected the sanctions against Cuba and Venezuela as "unfair, unnecessary, they must be eliminated in all countries" and, in the case of the crisis in Haiti, he extended a call for the cessation of hostilities in that nation, since He stressed that its citizens "have the right to exist, to live."

Likewise, he advocated reinforcing food security among member nations, as well as air interconnection at the regional level, considering both aspects of high importance for the island states, while ratifying that the organization can count on the participation of Saint Lucia in all actions for regional survival and advancement.

He recalled the need to advance negotiations with the airline Conviasa to establish regular routes between the main destinations and promote the tourism industry together with Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Bolivia and Venezuela while he wished success to the Venezuelan president, Nicolás Maduro, in the upcoming elections.

During the meeting of ALBA-TCP leaders, the debates focused on the 2030 Strategic Agenda, which guides the path to follow in the search for the development of the member countries in the coming years, especially in key areas from the point of view of from a social, economic, political and cultural point of view. (PL)

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