

# *Cuban Participation at Summit of the Americas met with Strong Regional Support*

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Panama, April 7, (RHC), – The decision to invite Cuba to the Summit of the Americas has been met with massive support, said Panamanian foreign minister, Isabel de Saint Malo.

In statements to the local daily La Estrella, the foreign minister said that President Juan Carlos Varela had made the decision, which was an pending issue from the latest summit, held in *Cartagena*. This summit was not attended by some heads of state in protest for Cuba's exclusion.

Some countries expressed great joy, others were more prudent, but the decision was finally welcomed and there has not been a single country that has announced not to attend.

Panama continues with its historic efforts to promote dialog and understanding; we can now talk about more polarization in the region.

The citizens of all countries in The Americas, disregarding the political positions of their governments, have similar concerns, aspirations and hopes, which are finding better days for their families, their children and grandchildren, she noted.

The Panamanian government official said “we all have the obligation to improve the wellbeing of our people and it is right here where Latin America has a lot to do, since it is a continent with population growth and prosperity, but it needs much more equity.

The Panama Summit will come up with a Mandate of Action and we want it to be a binding one, said the official.

The foreign minister added that the Venezuela issue has been addressed at the Organization of American States and it has been recognized as an issue at the center of regional interest at the moment, but not in the interest of the Summit.

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