

# *Mexican President Visits Cuba to Take Advantage of 'Key Moment'*

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Mexico City, January 24 (RHC)— Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto next week will make a state visit to Cuba during which he will seek to take advantage of a "key moment" to strengthen the "historic and close" relations between the two countries, Mexico's deputy foreign secretary, Vanessa Rubio, said during an interview with EFE news agency.

Peña Nieto will depart for Havana in the next few days to join other 32 regional heads of state and representatives that will participate in the 2nd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and will remain in Havana for several days afterward.

Peña Nieto's first visit to Cuba will follow that made by his predecessor, Felipe Calderon, in April 2012, which put an end to several years of disagreements between the two countries, especially during the 2000-2006 administration of Vicente Fox.

"The new relationship of Mexico with Cuba stems from an historic relationship," Rubio said, adding that an "interesting balance" exists between political and economic issues in the Mexico-Cuba relationship.

The Mexican leader's trip to Havana has been preceded by reciprocal high-level visits, the latest of them by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez in November, when the two nations signed eight accords to tighten their links.

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