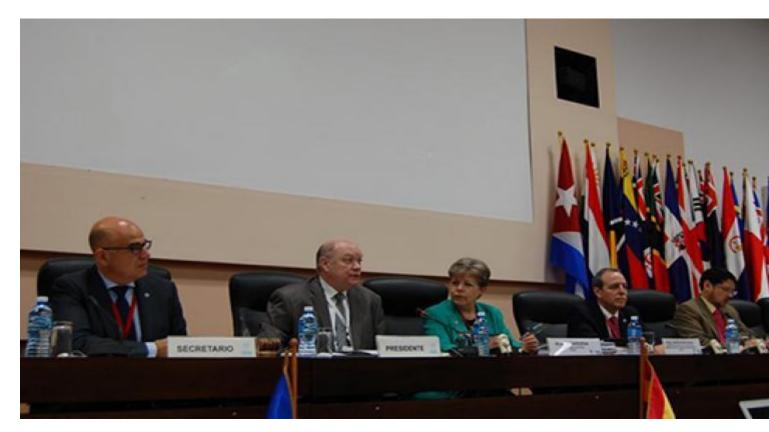# *Malmierca: Cuba and ECLAC believe that equality is key to development*



Havana, May 11 (RHC)-- Cuba´s Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, Rodrigo Malmierca, stressed that conferring to the island the pro tempore chairmanship of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a demonstration of its members' confidence in the leadership of the Caribbean nation.

In statements to the national press, Malmierca noted that the celebration of ECLAC´s thirty-seventh session in Havana was very special honor because it coincided with the celebration of the 70th anniversary of that UN specialized agency, well known for its leadership for the development of countries of the region.

The minister added that during the times Cuba chairs ECLAC, special attention will be paid to the issue of inequality, because both, the agency and the island firmly believe that equality is key to development.

Meanwhile, during the presentation by ECLAC of the document The Inefficiency of Inequality Thursday, Malmierca highlighted the importance of the proposal, emphasizing that pro-equality policies not only produce positive effects in terms of social well-being but also help create an economic system that is propitious for learning, innovation, higher productivity and environmental protection.

In his remarks about the document Malmierca stressed that the report "gives continuity to what ECLAC has been doing over the last ten years, which is putting equality at the center of the analysis."

"We can assure ECLAC that we will support the vision of placing equality at the center of development. It is a basic, fundamental issue and we will be able to work in a more efficient way, sharing strategies and working together," he affirmed.

ECLAC´s 37th Session is ending this Friday with the approval of resolutions proposed during the week.

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**Radio Habana Cuba**