

# *CARICOM and Cuba pledge to work together to face regional challenges*

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Georgetown, June 14 (RHC)--The foreign ministers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cuba voiced their willingness to face together the challenges to achieve sustainable development.

The commitment was expressed in a Final Declaration issued at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> CARICOM-Cuba Ministerial Conference held Friday in Georgetown, the Guyanese capital.

In the text, participating countries highlighted that regional unity remains a fundamental support to the improvement of economic and environmental spheres in their respective efforts to build fairer and more equitable societies.

They agreed, in addition, to strengthen coordination for the confrontations of frequent and intense hurricanes that hit the area, and the negative effects that natural disasters are having on their development.

"We reaffirm our solidarity with the Republic of Haiti, a country with which we have a historic debt of gratitude, and the commitment to continue promoting cooperation with that nation, in accordance with the priorities defined by its government and with full respect for its sovereignty," the declaration added.

The document also called on the international community to take into consideration in its relations with member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) the bloc's

proclamation of the region as a Zone of Peace, signed in Havana in January 2014.

The statement also rejected the imposition of unilateral coercive measures and urged an immediate and unconditional end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the U.S. government on Cuba, with a special emphasis on its extraterritorial nature and the persecution of Cuban financial transactions.

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