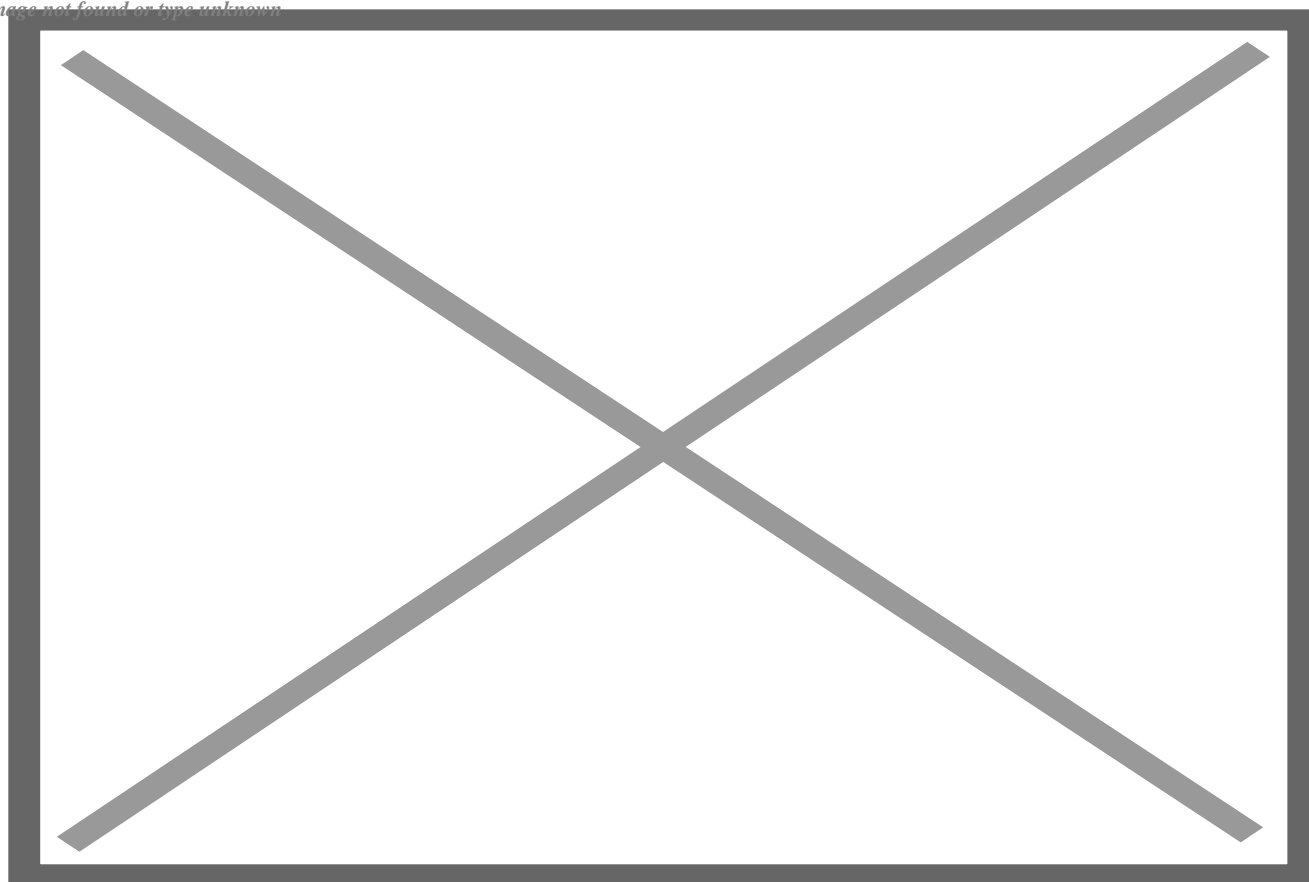


Díaz-Canel greets President Lula's da Silva's inauguration in Brazil

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Cuba has always admired and defended Lula's leadership. (Photo:@DiazCanelB)

Havana, January 2 (RHC)-- The First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) and President of the Republic, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, greeted Monday the inauguration of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who was elected in October, beating the far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro.

Through Twitter, the Cuban president affirmed that the people of his country always admired and defended the leadership of Lula, who this Sunday was proclaimed president for the third time, 20 years

after his first term.

"Today we welcome with joy this new stage that begins, with the certainty that it will be profitable for Brazil and #OurAmerica," Díaz-Canel added.

On the same social network, the PCC stressed that Lula, 77, represents the dignity of the peoples of Latin America, and affirmed that Brazilians can count on Cuba.

"@LulaOficial is dignity, that of the peoples of the Patria Grande. I embrace the Brazilian people. See you in combat. They can count on #Cuba," refers the PCC message, which also included the hashtag #VengaLaEsperanza.

The Secretary of Organization of the Cuban Party, Roberto Morales Ojeda, sent congratulations to the new president of the South American giant, and stressed the importance of his election for the strengthening of the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Angel Arzuaga Reyes, deputy head and coordinator of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the political organization, indicated that Lula's leadership implies a new Brazil and a renewed impulse to regional integration.

After winning the elections in the second round, with 50.90 percent of the valid votes, the new president of Brazil took office on Sunday, in a ceremony attended by a Cuban delegation headed by Vice President Salvador Valdés Mesa.

In his speech, the president affirmed that his first actions aim at rescuing 33 million people from hunger and more than 100 million citizens from poverty, who bore the hardest burden of the previous head of state's project of national destruction.

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