

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE III MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGHER AUTHORITIES OF CULTURE OF THE ALBA NATIONS

The Roseau Declaration

We, the Ministers and Higher Authorities of Culture of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America (ALBA), Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Republic of Cuba, Commonwealth of Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, meeting in Roseau, capital of the Commonwealth of Dominica on June 16, 2010 for our Third Meeting:

Affirm our commitment to understanding our reality through arts and culture and commit to confronting our common challenges and maximizing our opportunities in this time of difficulty that is the global economic and financial crisis.

Affirm culture as the foundation of social and economic development and commit to promoting full participation of all communities in cultural development by establishing links between cultural policy and policies related to other areas of life.

Commit to mobilizing economic and other benefits for our people through culture and affirm our determination to nurture cooperation in culture and pursue excellence in culture.

Commit to creating in our countries and within ALBA an environment where persons have access to and participate in opportunities for self and community expression and preservation.

Reaffirm the growing contribution of culture to the political and social advances of each country, as well as its relevant role in the processes of cooperation and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean that will carry us forward into the unity that ALBA proposes among our nations and all the countries of Our America;

Underline the high priority that the ALBA Summit gives to culture, as shown in the approval of the Grand National ALBA Cultural Project and its strategic plan, along with the provision of the necessary resources for development of the plan at a time when the global financial and economic crisis affects the culture budget in most countries.

Recognize the commemoration of the Bicentennial of Independence from the Spanish metropolis which is an extraordinary opportunity to deepen reflection on our history, to spark our memory, and to highlight those values that have united us a people of the Great Homeland.

Express solidarity with the Kalinago people of Dominica, the only surviving true Carib population outside the American continent in their struggle for self-preservation through the preservation and promotion of Kalinago Culture.

Express solidarity with Haiti in its struggle to rise again from the ravages of the disastrous earthquake of January, 2010.

Condemn the coup d'etat which took place in sister nation Honduras that – among its multiple consequences – deprives its people from participating in actions which were approved jointly with legitimate representatives from Honduras in our second meeting and which promote the social and cultural development of all our countries. Express our solidarity with the People of Honduras in their resistance against the usurping power.

As a result of a frank but friendly intense exchange of opinions and experiences engaged in a rigorous evaluation of a common checklist of culture actions and committed to the quest for the best solutions and results.

WE DECLARE

- To strengthen the implementation of the actions embodied in the ALBA Cultural Strategic Plan as those that will ensure priority attention is given to each of the responsible countries and participants therein until a successful result is attained, each in the timeline specified. To create a network of our institutions with similar objectives.

- To attend to all the needs which were previously identified which are associated with the development of indigenous culture in our countries in a manner that ensures their satisfactory development. Allocate the resources to commit to the new tasks that have been especially agreed upon.

- To strengthen the ALBA Grand National Culture Fund given its great role in implementing the ALBA Grand National Culture Project, along with its growing role in the processes of production and distribution of goods and services in the cultural realm. Identify the institutions in each country that would establish financial and commercial linkages in order to meet the requirements of the tasks.

- To support the ALBA Cultural Fund in negotiations with the ALBA Bank in order to find solutions to the challenges associated with the nature of the ALBA Cultural Action Plan, in a way that delivers secure and efficient backing for the attainment of the objectives in our countries. Strengthen and at the same time control the optimum usage of assigned resources and their execution.

- To heighten the Cultural presence in the deliberations of the ALBA Social Council, which will favour linkages with related sectors. Support the actions of the ALBA Cultural Fund in its aim to attain better interaction with other Projects and Grand National Companies that can complement their work as this will facilitate the inclusion of the Cultural to the Social Council.

- To strengthen our common tasks within the Culture Ministers Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean and in this regard support the work of Bolivia on the pro tempore Secretariat and as the host of the next forum which will take place in 2011. Similarly, promote ties with other processes of sub regional integration in the area of culture such as CARICOM, MERCOSUR, SICA and UNASUR through the participation of ALBA member countries.

- To systematic advance work towards the visibility of ALBA which is based on the alliance of our people, solidarity, cooperation and complimentarity, whose actions should be seen as symbols of a possible future; in this sense, invest all the creative potential offered by culture to the service of effective communication, capable of showing our advances and impacts in social and cultural development.
- To accept the fraternal offer made by *Plurinational State of Bolivia* to host the IV Meeting of Culture Ministers of ALBA in Bolivia in *May* of 2011.
- To express recognition and gratitude to the government and people of the Commonwealth of Dominica and especially to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports for the excellent arrangements made for this III Meeting and for the warm welcome given to all the participants which favoured the success of this encounter.

Given in Roseau on the 16th day of the month of June, 2010

FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF
DOMINICA**

**FOR THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF
BOLIVIA**

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

**FOR SAINT VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES**

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

**FOR THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA**