
Cuba and Venezuela strengthening relations

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The closing ceremony of the 18th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission for the Cuba-Venezuela Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, was held December 14 in Havana.

The Final Declaration and Cooperation Plan for next year - which features 27 projects within nine programs linked to healthcare, human resource training, and culture - was approved during the event.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan capital was also chosen as the site of the next meeting, scheduled to take place in the second half of 2018. The ceremony was presided by Rodrigo Malmierca, Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, and Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Jorge Arreaza.

Also present during the event were Venezuelan Ambassador to Cuba and Cuban Ambassador to Venezuela, Alí Rodríguez and Rogelio Polanco, respectively.

During his speech Malmierca reaffirmed Cuba's longstanding and continual support for Venezuela, and highlighted the anniversary of the creation of the Bolivarian Alliance for the People's of Our America-People's Trade Agreement (ALBA-TPCP) which emerged from the Cuba-Venezuela Comprehensive

Cooperation Agreement.

The Cuban official described ALBA-TPCP as an integration mechanism based on fraternity, solidarity and mutual benefit, before highlighting recent victories by the Bolivarian Revolution in its struggle against internal and external aggression, after winning 71% of the vote in the December 10 municipal elections.

Meanwhile, Arreaza mentioned important features of the agreement including solidarity, something which characterizes genuine, socialist revolutions, according to the Venezuelan diplomat; as well as training human resources to take on the important roles initially performed by Cuban collaborators in the fields of health, sports, and culture.

Arreaza noted that the Agreement's commitment to unity and the struggle against imperialism represents a tribute to Comandantes Fidel and Chávez and to the two peoples.
