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We shall move forward in the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, Raul Castro says

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The President of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, inaugurated the Fifth CARICOM-Cuba Summit calling to advance in the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean.

"We must advance with stronger steps each time towards the essential political, economic and social integration of Latin America and the Caribbean," he expressed.

He also stressed that the countries of the Caribbean face common challenges that they would only be able to overcome if they stand united.

"We stand by our commitment to share our modest achievements with the brothers of the Caribbean region. We will continue to offer our supportive assistance in the training of human resources and in medical care," the head of state underlined.

He also spoke of the joint efforts in the upgrading of the Bilateral Co-operation and Trade Agreement, which will eliminate the taxes on 297 products from the CARICOM countries and 47 from Cuba. Likewise; he reiterated Cuba's invariable position of support to the right of the small, vulnerable countries to receive a special and differentiated treatment in the access to trade and investments.

The Cuban president also reminded the permanent support of the Caribbean nations in the resolutions of the UN General Assembly as well as the countless shows of support expressed in international forums.

"We are deeply grateful to our brothers of the Caribbean for their upright position of respect and solidarity with our Homeland," he said.

The Cuban leader emphasized the debt of gratitude of Latin America and the Caribbean with Haiti, where the first independence revolution of the continent took place.

The Fifth CARICOM-Cuba Summit will session all Monday December 8 and it is expected to further consolidate the process of regional integration.

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