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SICA Pushes for Stopping Child Migration, Welcomes Cuba-U.S. Pact

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The 44th Summit of the heads of the SICA nations, held in Belize, also agreed Wednesday on a human-centered approach in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, after the expiry of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals next year.

On the initiative of Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela, SICA approved a resolution congratulating the U.S. and Cuba for agreeing to renew diplomatic ties.

SICA, with headquarters in San Salvador, said in a statement that the summit dealt with the group's five pillars of priority: social integration, economic integration, institutional reinforcement, democratic security and risk management, and climate change.

According to the final declaration of the summit, a human-centered approach in the Post-2015 Development Agenda would allow them to tackle the structural causes of poverty and exclusion in the region.

It also underlined the importance of promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development environmental protection and human dignity in the member countries.

The leaders also agreed to continue to move ahead to deal with unaccompanied migration of children, so as to prevent minors from Central America migrating to the United States.

Most of the children migrate from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and their arrival in the United States between the end of 2013 and the middle of 2014 caused a humanitarian

emergency situation for the U.S. authorities.

The summit also recognized the advances made by the Alliance for the prosperity of the Northern Triangle, which contains actions for productive development, investment in human capital, citizens' security and access to justice.

Through this initiative, launched on Nov. 26 in Washington with support from the United States and the Inter-American Development Bank, the above three countries seek to attract investments to prevent migration of its citizens and strengthen development.

The summit was hosted by Belizean Prime Minister Dean Barrow and SICA General Secretary Victoria de Aviles.

Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina was appointed pro tempore president of SICA for the first semester of 2015.

The presidents of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez, and Dominican Republic, Danilo Medina, respectively, also attended the event.

El Salvador and Costa Rica were represented by their respective foreign ministers, Hugo Martinez and Manuel Gonzalez, and Nicaragua by trade and industry minister Orlando Solorzano.

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