

Thirty-three Latin American and Caribbean Countries Sign Havana “Zone of Peace” Declaration

By [Global Research News](#)

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Global Research, January 31, 2014

[Morning Star \(UK\)](#)

Latin American and Caribbean heads of state adopted a landmark agreement pledging to make the region a “zone of peace.”

Leaders from the 33-nation Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Celac) signed the Havana Declaration, promising not to intervene in other countries’ internal affairs and resolve disputes peacefully.

The agreement followed the two-day Celac summit and recognised “the inalienable right of every state to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system.”

It put in writing the need to resolve differences “through dialogue and negotiation or other forms of peaceful settlement established in international law.”

The declaration also reiterated the need for total global nuclear disarmament and highlighted the ongoing importance of the 1967 Tlatelolco Treaty, which established the region as a nuclear-free zone.

And it emphasised the need to work for food security, literacy, education, the development of agriculture and the achievement of universal public health services.

The brainchild of late Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, Celac was set up in 2011 to counter the US-dominated Organisation of American States, which expelled Cuba in 1962 in retaliation for its rejection of imperialism.

On Wednesday morning current Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro opened a museum in the Cabana Fortress, Havana, to honour his predecessor’s tireless work for Latin American integration.

The region’s left turn was in full evidence as president after president railed against US imperialism and capitalism.

It meant Colombia’s Juan Manuel Santos struck a lonely figure as he tried to promote free trade as a spur for economic growth.

Famously casual Uruguayan President Jose Mujica added the imposition of the business suit to imperialism’s crimes.

“We have to dress like English gentlemen,” he complained. “Even the Japanese had to abandon their kimonos to have prestige in the world.”

“We all had to dress up like monkeys with ties.”

The original source of this article is [Morning Star \(UK\)](#)

Copyright © [Global Research News](#), [Morning Star \(UK\)](#), 2014

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research News](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca