



Organization of
American States



SEVENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
April 10 to 11, 2015
Panama City, Panama

OEA/Ser.E
CA-VII/INF.12/15
20 April 2015
Original: Spanish

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
PARAGUAY, MR. HORACIO CARTES**

At this Seventh Summit of the Americas, I have the pleasure of saluting President Juan Carlos Varela and of extending to him our sincere thanks for the warm welcome we have received since arriving in Panama.

I would also like to greet all the heads of state and prime ministers in attendance at this important forum, which has brought together the whole of the Americas.

We express our solidarity with the people and Government of Chile at this difficult time.

It is an honor to be participating at this Summit, which will undoubtedly go down in history for bringing together, for the first time, the 35 countries that make up our Hemisphere. We are overcoming barriers erected decades ago and we are making progress with conciliation and dialogue for all its nations.

We applaud the progress made with reestablishing relations between Cuba and the United States.

We have gathered here to fight together for the most important and difficult universal cause: prosperity with equity; the defense of equal opportunities and social justice for all our brothers and sisters in the Americas.

Over the past decade, those countries of the Americas whose economies were strongly tied to primary production made progress in economic development and in major reductions in poverty thanks to rising commodity prices.

That situation will no longer show the same level of solidarity toward our small producers, and now the weight of inclusive economic and social development will depend more on state policies and on our ability, as leaders, to harmonize our economic strengths to create conditions and commitments that will enable us to make comprehensive use of those strengths and thus open up new paths for the progress of the nations that we are representing here today.

That is the only way we will be able to tackle the poverty in Latin America that, according to figures from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, affects 167 million people.

Because we cannot claim victory when, in all our nations, someone is hungry or lacks access to education, health, decent housing, or paid work.

Hemispheric economic integration is necessary to overcome poverty and to make progress with all the issues that it comprises.

We are not here to discuss a hegemonic imposition of trading conditions on our countries. We must work to identify mechanisms that unite us, but not at the cost of weakening others: rather, a form of integration that will give us the opportunity to offer the whole of the Americas sustained and sustainable growth, based on cooperation.

Cooperation: that is the key to progress, leaving to one side whatever distrust and resentments may exist between our governments.

That is the only way in which we can respond to the citizens who deposited their trust in their leaders to make each of our nations more powerful, more equitable, and more just.

We can attain a hemispheric consensus if we achieve a cooperation model that creates economic, social, and educational activities to secure progress for all.

We share a physical space on this planet. Like a physical body, each of our nations represents an organ that must be kept healthy for complete well-being in the future.

Let us work on collaboration, on harmony. Let us learn to leave our differences behind us, to take a positive step forward in the history of each individual nation and of our Hemisphere.

To conclude, I would like to extend the sincere homage of the people and government of Paraguay to two illustrious citizens of the Americas – Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdín – for their dedication to the peoples of the Americas.

Thank you very much.