

# *Bolivia to Strengthen Economic, Political Relations with Cuba*

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Havana, June 27 (RHC-ACN)-- Bolivia's Foreign Minister Fernando Huanacuni Mamani said on Monday in Havana that his country wants to strengthen economic relations with Cuba in addition to consolidating integration among all Latin American and Caribbean nations and peoples.

During a meeting Monday in Havana with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez, the Bolivian foreign minister urged to revise issues on the bilateral agenda, particularly those regarding economic cooperation.

Minister Huanacuni is in Cuba on an official visit. In statements to the press upon his arrival Sunday, he said he traveled to Havana with many expectations for the materialization of aspects in which both countries have been long working on.

The Bolivian Foreign Minister pointed to the need to come up with a common strategy toward 'consolidating the revolutionary processes in Bolivia and Cuban.' He called Cuba a beacon of light, an example of dignity for revolutionaries in our region and the world.

On behalf of Bolivian President Evo Morales Ayma, the top diplomat thanked Cuba for the medical assistance to the Head of State, saying Evo is fully "recovered, happy and unstoppable in his dynamics as leader of the South American country".

During the meeting, the Cuban Foreign Minister praised the excellent state of bilateral ties and highlighted the enormous potential to further develop relations.

He reiterated Cuba's commitment to advancing cooperation and pointed to the health sector, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, services and other joint projects in areas like fruit processing.

The top Cuban diplomat thanked Bolivia for its permanent support for Cuba against the US economic,

commercial and financial blockade and expressed admiration for the South American country's resolute defense of just causes in the region and around the world.

Minister Rodríguez renewed Cuba's support for the Bolivian right to a sovereign outlet to the sea. He assured that an official Cuban delegation will travel to Bolivia to attend activities on occasion of the 50th anniversary of the killing of legendary Argentinian-Cuban guerrilla commander Ernesto 'Che' Guevara.

Cuba and Bolivia first established diplomatic relations on July 19th, 1902. Ties were later broken in 1964 due to pressures applied by the U.S. within the Organization of American States (OAS). Bilateral relations were then reestablished on January 11, 1983.

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