

# *Working for the interests of the South*

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By María Josefina Arce

"We aspire to a new world order, based on justice, equity and peace..." affirmed the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, and that has been a permanent commitment of Cuba, which it has defended in international tribunals, during its leadership of regional mechanisms and with its solidarity actions throughout decades.

Now, as president pro tempore of the Group of 77+China, a responsibility assumed at the beginning of

this year, Cuba seeks to join efforts to jointly face common challenges and work for the welfare of our peoples, in the midst of an increasingly selfish world.

With this objective in mind, the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member nations of this negotiating and political coordination bloc was announced for September in Havana.

In this regard, Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel affirmed that this will be a propitious occasion to strengthen unity and coordinate actions in the search for solutions to the most pressing problems of today's world.

Poverty, illiteracy, inequalities in access to basic services for a more dignified life are problems of the least developed countries, which, as the Cuban leader recalled, are marginalized from the benefits of science, technology and innovation for development.

That is why the theme of the meeting in the Cuban capital will be "Current Development Challenges: The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation", an essential aspect to advance towards sustainable progress.

Cuba has not only insisted on the need for new international relations in which solidarity prevails, but this is a basic principle of its foreign policy, which has materialized in unconditional assistance to all those who need it and in making its achievements and experiences available to all.

The COVID 19 pandemic has shown the correctness of this position, by demonstrating that serious international problems can only be solved through cooperation, since the big capitalist transnationals will profit from any issue that brings them benefits.

That is why Díaz Canel, at the Havana meeting, emphasized that the members of the Group of 77+China, which together represent 80% of the world's population and more than two thirds of the UN membership, urgently need that solidarity.

Advancing the common interests of the South is a priority for Cuba at the head of the bloc and to that end its voice is heard in the various international forums, but it also works in pursuit of projects that benefit the member nations.

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