

# *CELAC Foreign Ministers Meet in Quito ahead of Bloc's Summit*

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Quito, January 26 (RHC) – Foreign Ministers of the 33 member states of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) met in Quito, Ecuador, on Tuesday, to review documents that will be submitted for debate and approval by regional leaders during the bloc's 4th summit.

The foreign ministers are giving the final touches to the summit's Political Declaration, the Plan of Action for 2016 and other papers on specific national and regional issues proposed by member states.

In statements to reporters, Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño said the diplomats would also debate the ongoing peace process between the government of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-people's Army (FARC-EP).

Patiño added that Haitian authorities have asked the regional bloc to analyze the electoral crisis in the Caribbean state, particularly after opposition candidate Jude Celestin refused to participate in the run-off elections, which was set for this past Sunday, January 24th.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Abelardo Moreno, who represented the country at Monday's meeting of National Coordinators of CELAC, said the regional bloc will once again call on the United States government to lift the blockade of Cuba.

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