

Announcement
IV MEETING OF CARIBBEAN TOWNS (APC)
LA HABANA, JUNE 28TH TO JULY 5TH, 2008

**“THE CARIBBEAN: DIVERSITY, RESISTANCE, SOLIDARITY AND
ALTERNATIVE INTEGRATION”**

The Meeting of Caribbean Towns (APC, *Asamblea de los Pueblos del Caribe*) is a collective construction dynamic launched by social, political, rural, labor union, workers, women, students and young people, artists, and intellectuals organizations and movements, and environmental, community and solidarity based, and non-governmental organizations of the Caribbean. It constitutes a space for the dialogue about development and convergence of the Caribbean struggle to defend its national sovereignty and independence, peace, sustainable development, social justice, equity, and cultural identity.

To this date, there have been three Meeting of Caribbean Towns. The first one in Trinidad and Tobago in August 1994. The second one in Dominican Republic in April 2001. And the third one in August 2003 in Cap-Haïtien, historical city where the first slave revolution started, which led to the independence of Haiti in 1804.

The main objectives of the APC are: to support and contribute to the strengthening of the social movements and the organizations of the Caribbean, favoring its convergence and articulation; to promote a Caribbean entity based on respect towards diversity and on resistance against all aggressions, manifestations of colonial domination, and imperialist oppression against our countries; to stimulate the struggles of the towns of the region against the predatory consequences of capitalist neoliberal globalization and its bilateral and regional free trade models.

The Regional Executive Committee of the APC, which works as a liaison and monitoring mechanism between the Meetings, and is made up by representatives from Barbados, Cuba, Curacao, Haiti, Martinique, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago, has agreed to celebrate the **IV Meeting of Caribbean Towns in Cuba, from June 28th to July 5th, 2008, summoned under the central topic The Caribbean: Diversity, Resistance, Solidarity, and Alternative Integration.**

With the purpose of deeply analyzing and debating the main problems, worries, and interests of the towns of our region, the IV APC will approach the following **Thematic Agenda:**

1. Sovereignty – Pro-independent movements – Anti-colonial struggles – Struggles against military bases and militarism – Terrorism

2. Resistance against imperialism and against neoliberal economic politics – The models and free trade agreements (WTO, EPAs, and FTAs) – Debt and IFIs – Transnationals – Privatizations
3. Untenability of the neoliberal model and its implications for the Caribbean – Global warming – Degradation of the environment – Natural catastrophes – Agrofuels – Prices and Financial speculation – The right to alimentary and energetic sovereignty – The need to build alternative consumption models.
4. Resistance against the neoliberal model in the social sphere – The rights of children, labor, housing, land, education, health, social security – The struggles against neoliberal mega-projects, social exclusion, violence, drug-addiction, poverty
5. Neoliberal globalization and people circulation – Migration – Tourism
6. Identity – Diversity – Culture – Education – Communication
7. Social movements – Solidarity – Alliance and Convergence construction – Struggle and new threats of criminalization of protest
8. Cooperation – Alternative integration projects – Transport

Women and Youth, as transversal axis

The preparatory process of the IV APC will cover a wide debate effort, linked to the on-going mobilizations nationwide, to be able to arrive to the Meeting with proposals that result from the participation of different sectors and main characters of the social struggles in each of the countries and territories of the region (all the islands of the Caribbean, Belize, Guyana, Cayenne, and Suriname).

The Regional Executive Committee is proud to invite the Caribbean movements and organizations, identified with the objectives of this space that promotes the unity and struggle, to participate in the enriching debates and the searching of solutions that will characterize the IV Meeting of Caribbean Towns, which will have place in Cuba. In this sense, we accept with great gratitude the generous offer of the town of Cuba for hosting this event.

We hope that this meeting in Cuba, to take place between June 28th and July 5th of 2008, will reassert our commitment with the defense of the **Diversity, the Resistance, the Solidarity, and the Alternative Integration of the Caribbean Towns.**

**Regional Executive Committee
Meeting of Caribbean Towns
Habana, December 11th of 2007**