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Voting Result:

IN FAVOUR 165

AGAINST 7

ABSTENTION 12

Another Battle Won

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Latin American Tourism Journalists Seek to Strengthen Ties

By Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

HAVANA.- The International Network of Latin American Journalists and Writers of Tourism seeks to strengthen ties with Cuban authorities and integrate the country into its professional gearwheel.

A message from that institution indicates that the Network and its chairman, Uruguayan Julio César Debali, hope to expand their contacts with this nation and its communicators to create the so-called Cuban Chapter of the organization.

The Network is made up of chapters formed in various Latin American countries, such as Argentina, a country recently visited by Debali, where he held meetings with local colleagues.

According to official sources, the President of the organization has been holding discussions with Cuban authorities and professional counterparts for some time, aiming for their integration into the International Network of Latin American Journalists and Writers of Tourism.

This organization brings together the industry's most important players; that is, those involved in the promotion and

advertisement of tourism destinations throughout Latin America.

It also aims to contribute to the development of the sector in its socioeconomic and cultural aspects, among others, in the countries within its geographic scope.

The network also seeks to participate in joint studies and tasks from a professional perspective, addressing problems that may affect this development, as well as to present proposals and initiatives to governmental, institutional, administrative, public and business entities.

In Debali's opinion, each nation's chapter enhances public point of views among tourism-related organizations in Latin American countries, as well as the profession and dedication to the travel industry. They also serve as advisory and opinion-sharing bodies for tourism, defending the industry as a source of growth, opportunity and peace.

The Mercosur Travel and Tourism Magazine recently published an article written by the network director, Julio César Debali, on the tourist landscape of Topes de Collantes, in central Cuba.

The article highlights the beauty of the area and emphasizes that Cuba is pure nature, with unique locations perfect for adventure tourism, lush vegetation and mountains that cut the horizon very close to the sun and beach tourist destinations.

The Network's chairman, who has been visiting Cuba for more than 25 years, returned this year to attend the Gaviota Tourism Fair held from September 14 to 20 with the participation of more than 3,000 industry professionals.

Debali is responsible for 15 newspapers, the first of which was founded on September 8, 1984 and of which he is the director and editor-in-chief. He also directs and edits the Mercosur Travel & Tourism magazine.



Network chairman, Uruguayan Julio César Debali. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

New Tourist Attractions

By Benjamín **MICERINOS**

HAVANA.- The Cosmos Hotel Group, the largest of its kind in Russia, will operate the Sierra Cristal hotel complex, a 640-room and five-star facility in Cuba, located in the eastern province of Holguín..



The Russian hotel group Cosmos will operate the Sierra Cristal complex, opened in 2024. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Official sources indicated that Cosmos and the Gaviota SA Cuban tourism group signed a management agreement for the facility, which will operate under the name: Sierra Cristal by Cosmos Hotels.

According to a statement issued to the press by Chairman of the Cosmos Hotel Group, Alexander Biba, this is the first international resort to be managed by this company, which is currently evaluating other promising markets and negotiating new hotel and urban complexes, to be also managed and franchised by this Russian company.

It was also known that the Spanish Iberostar Cuba Hotels & Resorts hotel group and Gaviota signed an agreement to lease the Iberostar Origin Laguna Azul hotel.

This management model, signed by Gaviota's chairman Carlos Latuff and Iberostar Cuba's representative Alejandro Barrios will boost the hotel's repositioning locally and internationally, in tune with the quality and excellence of this Spanish group.

This agreement involves a comprehensive transformation of the facility's strategic areas, the incorporation of cutting-edge technology, the optimization of sales

channels, the strengthening of operations, financial modernization, the development of a marketing strategy, and robust communication.

Iberostar Cuba Hotels & Resorts has 18 four and five-star hotels in the main Cuban tourist destinations. It offers its guests five hotels in the heart of Havana and 14 on the beaches, in places such as Varadero, Cayo Cruz, Cayo Ensenachos, Cayo Guillermo, Trinidad and Holguín.

Sources announced that the Tourism Sector Innovation Forum will be held at the end of this month (26 and 27) in the Varadero resort, with the goal of boosting the sector in the country's leading sun and beach destination.

Experts believe the event will provide an opportunity to analyze the challenges the leisure industry faces and will serve as a platform to showcase the creative potential of men and women working in this sector to strengthen the work of their tourist facilities.

Professionals from the hotel and non-hotel sectors will discuss the results achieved in terms of equipment recovery and service improvements.

According to the event schedule, they will highlight the competitiveness of the Matanzas destination and their experiences to boost the acquisition of non-traditional markets, while also achieving higher arrival rates for traditional markets.

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Extraordinary Result at UN, in Spite of Brutal Pressure



Foreign Minister Rodríguez said that the vote against the blockade was a victory for the Cuban people. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Text and Photo Deisy FRANCIS

UNITED NATIONS.- Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez described the outcome of the vote against the U.S. blockade on Cuba at the UN General Assembly as extraordinary, despite being under the most brutal pressures.

After two days of debate, the Draft Resolution A/80/L.X entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" was approved for a 33rd year, on October 29, this time with 165 votes in favor, seven against and 12 abstentions.

In an exchange with the news media that covered the vote, including **The Havana Reporter**, the minister highlighted that it has been "a resounding victory of our people, which is always the main protagonist."

Support for Cuba's claim "there is no doubt that it happened, despite brutal pressures" he affirmed while stating that "every minute you hear about new threats, new blackmails from the Secretary of State, the Department of State, and the anti-Cuba congressmen.

But he noted that it was "an extraordinary result amidst the most dangerous and difficult international situation," achieved in the face of the Yankees massive U.S. military deployment in the Caribbean and the Pacific, as well as a toxic campaign in the press and on social media.

This included, Rodríguez emphasized, official accounts of State Department officials, the U.S. Embassy in Havana and embassies in other parts of the world.

The head of the Cuban delegation also expressed that this victory was a "tribute to our Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, whose presence in the General Assembly Hall is always felt, especially at times like these."

He sent "all our affection and gratitude to Army General Raúl Castro Ruz for his constant encouragement when saying: "yes, it is possible. It was indeed possible to overwhelmingly defeat the Yankees, despite everything they did."

Rodríguez reaffirmed commitment to First Secretary and President Miguel Díaz-Canel, "to our Party and Government, which are heroically facing another hurricane," he added.

Our congratulations and deep gratitude to all our compatriots and to all solidarity movements worldwide. To Cubans from everywhere for this brilliant victory of the Cuban nation, the Foreign Minister concluded.

The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly called for the end of the U.S. blockade against Cuba, a unilateral imposition Havana has been denouncing since 1992.

This year, the seven votes against came from Argentina, the United States, Hungary, Israel, North Macedonia, Paraguay and Ukraine, while the 12 abstentions were from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Moldova, Romania and Poland.

3rd Meeting of Theoretical Publications of Left Parties and Movements

By Brenda BARRANCO

HAVANA.- The 3rd International Meeting of Theoretical Publications of Left Parties and Movements, held in this capital, brought together academics, editors, media directors and members of parties and movements from Cuba and worldwide.

The event, held from October 15 to 17, was aimed at sharing and spreading experiences to enrich the ideas of these movements, analyzing the struggles of the working class under Marxist principles, and complement the training of militant and revolutionary cadres.

For three days, panels, workshops, keynote lectures and book presentations were held on topics such as geopolitics, media manipulation and neo-fascism.

"Learning more about the global left was the motivation of this meeting, to offer solutions to the complex challenges we face at present and look forward together to a fairer and more hopeful future," said organization secretary of the PCC Central Committee, Roberto Morales, in his opening remarks.

The gathering, which he described as "essential," was dedicated to the centenary of the birth of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel attended the conference "Information and Media Manipulation: The Left in the face of the challenges of Quantum Artificial Superintelligence," delivered by Franco-Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet.

In his account on the social network X, the head of the Cuban State highlighted

the importance of the meeting, stressed the need for left organizations worldwide to maintain systematic exchanges, and urged to turn ideas into defense strongholds for just causes and progressive media publications, into an exercise of activism.

The second day included the workshops "Political communication in the age of algorithm" and "Revolutionary theory in the face of new challenges and a new type of fascism", with personalities such as Rosa Miriam Elizalde, Abel Prieto and Jaime Gómez Triana among their moderators and speakers, in addition to representatives from more than thirty countries.

The final day included the presentation of valuable texts related to leftist thinking and its leaders, while the editor of Cuba Socialista magazine, Luis Morlote, introduced a special issue of the publication dedicated to the 65th anniversary of its creation.

At the closing day, president of the TeleSur network, Patricia Villegas, condemned attempts to undermine regional peace and called for a free Palestine to be recognized as a state with full rights.

"We call on the progressive forces of the world to unite in a strong alliance and work together so that hope flourishes in all places where our ideas are present," she said. Once the event concluded, the first Granma Rebelde International Festival was opened. This space brought together several national and international media outlets to celebrate the 60 years of Cuba's most prominent newspapers at the service of the Revolution.



The meeting held panels, workshops, keynote lectures and book presentations. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

Four letters that stir hearts

By Deisy **FRANCIS**

UNITED NATIONS.- Cuba received numerous expressions of solidarity and support during the High-Level Segment of the 80th period of sessions of the UN General Assembly, held from September 23 to 29, where the four letters of the Caribbean nation were heard more than 40 times.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was the first head of state to speak in the plenary session. In his speech, he described as unacceptable the inclusion of Cuba on Washington's unilateral list of allegedly sponsoring terrorism.

Suriname, represented by its president, Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, reiterated the demand to lift the blockade, which she described as unfair and inhumane.

Meanwhile, the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, condemned the use of unilateral coercive measures and urged to immediately end the unilateral siege that has tried to strangle the Cuban people for decades.

Colombian president Gustavo Petro thanked the countries that "have helped us sow the seeds of peace," including

Cuba, while Mozambican president Daniel Chapo stressed his "strict opposition to the unilateral coercive measures that exclude the peoples of Cuba, Venezuela and Zimbabwe."

Such measures violate "the United Nations Charter concerning the principles of justice, solidarity and international law," he added.

Luong Cuong, president of Vietnam, reaffirmed solidarity "with the Cuban State and its people and urged the United States to eliminate the blockade against the island and remove it from the State sponsors of terrorism list."

His Angolan counterpart, João Lourenço, called for "the unconditional lifting of the unfair and prolonged blockade against Cuba, which has had severe consequences for its economy and people, who struggle every day to withstand the punishment that is also rejected by the international community."

He said that Cuba, which played "an important role in the struggle of African peoples" and helped bring down the racist and inhumane apartheid regime in South Africa and achieve the independence of Namibia, "cannot be arbitrarily and unilaterally designated as a state sponsor of terrorism."



Cuba received great support during the High-Level Segment of the UN General Assembly. PHOTO: UN.

"Meanwhile, David Adeang, the President of Nauru, urged the international community 'to dialogue about long-standing economic measures, including those affecting Cuba, to ensure that they support rather than hinder the development aspirations that the United Nations Charter and this Assembly seek to achieve.'

In fact, the speech that concluded the marathon succession of speakers who took the podium of the General Assembly on September 29 was that of Ambassador

Dionisio Da Costa Babo Soares, the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the UN. The diplomat stated: "Timor Leste supports the elimination of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against the Republic of Cuba, which in our view is a violation of human rights and harms its people by limiting their access to essential goods".

When Cuban Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez, took the podium, he affirmed that the blockade against his country persists and grows stronger.

Cuban Film Production under Aggression

Text and Photo Oscar **REDONDO**

ROME.-At the recent International Audiovisual Market Fair in Italy (MIA), Cuba denounced a new act of aggression from the United States against the Latin American nation's film industry. President of the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC), Alexis Triana, told **The Havana Reporter** that he took advantage of his participation in this important global gathering of the seventh art "to state and condemn the scam being carried out from the city of Miami by a fake Cuban Film Commission." "An entity that markets itself as the Cuban Film Commission is operating with complete impunity to this day in that North American city. It uses a fake logo of that organization, as well as that of the Cuban Audiovisual Association, to try to usurp the name of a commission that actually operates in Cuba, and thus deceive potential clients," he stated.

In an attempt to create an image of credibility, these criminals use a ".org" website to appear as an official entity, while claiming a fictitious headquarters in Havana..

He also pointed out that, in an attempt to attract film-related business, they use false promises of tax breaks (up to 40 percent) and unachievable filming permits as bait, illegal actions for which evidence can easily be found online.

Triana emphasized that the real Film Commission, based in Cuba, was created by Agreement 8613 of the Council of Ministers of that country on June 14, 2019, chaired by the Culture Minister, and by Agreement 9971 of 2024, it was ratified as a government agency responsible for the development of film and audiovisual production.

Recent meetings of this entity, coordinated by Cuban filmmaker Maritza Ceballos, evaluated the importance of attracting foreign capital for film and audiovisual production.

The concepts and standards that support the promotion of Cuba as a film destination were outlined in those meetings, and initial projects were presented, as well as potential co-productions and services that can be provided in coordination with the various structures represented in this state body.

At those meetings, ICAIC's current experiences with foreign production companies and its collaboration with independent Audiovisual Creation Collectives were also positively valued.

In this regard, Triana highlighted that "we are already on the second Dominican film being shot in Cuba, and producers from France and Russia are also getting ready to shoot feature films on the island.

"We are also re-launching our film industry, and Cuba now has 75 independent audiovisual production companies, while it has been approved that creative collectives can become independent film companies, even cooperatives, which represents a huge step forward," added ICAIC's president.



ICAIC's president denounced in Italy the attacks from the United States against the Cuban film institution.

Nine-Year-Old Girls to be Vaccinated against HPV

By Ana Laura **ARBESÚ**

HAVANA.- All nine-year-old Cuban girls will benefit from the upcoming vaccination campaign against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), said Deputy Director of the Finlay Institute of Vaccines Dagmar García.

This institution created one of the vaccines administered in Cuba against COVID-19, the Soberana vaccine.

According to the specialist, one of the main reasons the health authorities considered to take this decision was to address the problem resulting from the relationship between HPV infection and cervical cancer.

She explained that it is common for almost all sexually active people to become infected with some type of HPV in their lifetime. If an infection with these viruses persists for many years, it can cause slow changes in woman's cervical cells, which can eventually develop into cancer, she added.

The specialist also warned that cervical cancer is one of the main causes of cancer-related death in women in many parts of the world.

"Faced with this threat, the solution is the HPV vaccine," she stated. "It acts as a kind of 'training' for the immune system, teaching a woman's body to recognize and combat the most dangerous types of the virus before being exposed to them." In the case of Cuba, the HPV vaccine to be administered is the bivalent CECOLIN, which protects against serotypes 16 and 18, the most common, the scientist emphasized.

The pharmaceutical company stated that these two types (16 and 18) are responsible for

approximately 7 out of 10 cases of cervical cancer worldwide.

CECOLIN gives protection against the main cause of this disease and the vaccine is most effective when administered before exposure to the virus, which is why it is primarily recommended for girls and adolescents before they become sexually active, the institution said.

García highlighted that CECOLIN is a safe and effective vaccine that has received WHO's prequalification endorsement and is produced by the Chinese company Inovax.

She insisted that the solution is vaccination, stating that this decision gets ahead of the problem (cervical cancer) by 15 to 20 years.

The specialist added that the HPV vaccine will be part of the children vaccination schedule, which currently administers about 4.8 million doses of 13 different types of vaccines (single or combined) on average every year, with the goal of preventing the same number of diseases, according to official figures from the Ministry of Public Health.

Eight of the 13 vaccines mentioned before are produced in Cuba; the rest are imported, and now the HPV vaccine is being added.

Statistics show that after six decades of implementation, the National Immunization Program has managed to eradicate six diseases (polio, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, rubella, and parotitis), in addition to two severe clinical forms in children under the age of one (neonatal tetanus and tuberculosis meningitis), and two serious clinical complications (congenital rubella syndrome and post-parotitis meningitis).



The solution against uterine cancer is vaccination at an early age against papillomavirus. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

High Reproduction of Sea Turtles in Cuba's Northern Keys

By Neisa Mesa **DEL TORO**

CIEGO DE ÁVILA.- The current sea turtle reproductive season is considered very active in Cayo Coco, one of the islets comprising the Jardines del Rey tourist destination, on the northern coast of this central Cuban province. This year, around ten nesting events have been reported on different beaches in the area, which is part of the Cayo Coco Central-West Ecological Reserve protected site. This is something unusual, as until now, turtle's main nesting areas are located in the country's south.

Natural Resources, Prioritized Ecosystems and Climate Change specialist at the Science, Technology and Environment Delegation in Ciego de Ávila, Daylon Fundora, commented that they reported the birth of more than 100 hatchlings in a single nest, which shows an excellent reproductive season for the marine animal.

In all locations, appropriate safety measures were adopted to protect the areas where eggs were laid, in order to increase the hatchling survival rate.

The main nesting sites were at Las Coloradas, Larga and Prohibida beaches,



In the Jardines del Rey tourist destination was reported the birth of more than 100 hatchlings in a single nest. PHOTO: Internet.

where nests of green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles were found.

According to the specialist, safe beaches and healthy seas are essential for turtles' stable life, as the reproductive cycle becomes a ritual when they return to their places of origin to lay their eggs on the sand and ensure the continued subsistence of these animals.

Cuba is developing various actions to preserve this marine species, including monitoring programs, research projects

on the dangers they face, reinforcement of access restrictions to spawning areas, and proper delimitation and cleaning of spaces where nests are located.

Biologist and researcher at the Center for Coastal Ecosystems, Evelyn Marichal, stated that female turtles often return to the same beach where they were born to lay their eggs, demonstrating loyalty to their place of origin. These species migrate long distances, sometimes up to 2,600 kilometers, from

their feeding areas to specific beaches where they were brought into existence, repeating this journey every two or three years to reproduce.

According to her statement, the northern coastal area of Ciego de Ávila is a low-frequency nesting area for the sea turtles. Whereas the Jardines de la Reina Archipelago has historically been recognized as the species' major nesting zone in the territory.

A Look at the Latino Community in the United States

By Alma **LABRADA**

HAVANA.- The VI International Colloquium of Latino Studies in the United States convened in Havana, bringing together experts from various countries to discuss the present and future of that community in the North American nation.

Under the title *Latinidad y geografías humanas: las fronteras (in)visibles y sus espacios de poder*, the event held from October 14-16 at the Casa de las Américas facilitated reflection on the processes of construction and legitimization of racialized spaces. These spaces influence the relationship of Latin American, Caribbean, and Indigenous migrants and their descendants within American society. Dedicated to the Chicana academician, political activist, writer, and poet Gloria Anzaldúa, this sixth edition analyzed both the histories and the current circumstances of the spatial distribution of communities of Latin American and Caribbean origin in that country..

They also debated the political notions on which these spaces are built and their intersections with gender, generations, legality, demographic factors and sociocultural practices,

among other factors that contribute to the permanence of these communities. The meeting encouraged dialogue on other equally central issues in the contemporary context: geographical histories of Latinos in that country, border policies and the situation of the Afro-Latin and Indigenous population from the south of the Rio Grande in the United States. Other panels focused on the evaluation of Latinos from the arts and literature, the situation of enclaves and settlements of such origins and the processes of continuity and rupture that occur within them.

This, without overlooking the political perspective of these processes and, in particular, the impact of the Latino vote in the recent 2024 presidential elections. It also highlighted the role of the Cuban-American vote in the aforementioned elections, the work of alternative publishing houses and cultural projects, and the presence of Cuban artists on U.S. soil. Another crucial moment came with the lecture "Power, Politics and Borders: A Look at the situation of the Latino population in the context of the current Trump's administration." The study also showed, among other issues, the growing wave of violence, evictions and mass deportations that this community has

been subjected to in the United States. The meeting was a perfect opportunity to share recent publications by the Casa de las Américas Editorial Fund and the Program of Latinos Studies in the United States, as well as to screen the documentary *The First Rainbow Coalition*, by Ray Santisteban. The American filmmaker stated that the production of this audiovisual material took around 12 years to be completed, and it is

the result of 30 years of research on activist movements of the 1960s in United States. Over three days, specialists from Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and the United States forged alliances through thought and the common good, within an institution renowned for its constant work and its ability to rally people—from every front—for the cause of peace, culture, and the integration of Latin America.



The colloquium was dedicated to the Chicana political activist, writer, and poet Gloria Anzaldúa, who died in 2004. PHOTO: Internet.

Cuban Artists' Works on Exhibit at the Vatican

Text and photo Julio **TOLEDO**



The exhibition coincided with the celebrations of the Cuban Culture Day, last October 20. PHOTO: Internet.

VATICAN CITY.- The Palazzo della Cancelleria, a Vatican building located in the center of Rome, hosted the art exhibition "Great Cuban Artists," featuring works by important cultural figures from that nation.

Co-sponsored by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, the Bettini&Co Gallery and the Cuban embassy, the exhibition coincided with the celebrations of the Cuban Culture Day, on October 20.

Art critic Roberto Bussola, who led the event, highlighted along with expert Luciano Caprile, who participated remotely, the privilege it represents for the Vatican and Italy to showcase works by renowned Cuban painters such as Wifredo Lam, Alfredo Sosabravo, Alexis Leyva (Kcho), Roberto Fabelo and Manuel Mendive.

The exhibition also included paintings by Karlos Pérez, Zaida del Río, Elieser Gómez and Yasiel Elizagaray. The latter, who attended the inauguration, expressed on behalf of the Cuban artists his gratitude for this opportunity, which opens the doors to the Cuban culture in one of the most important cultural venues in Italy, Europe and the world.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Elizagaray said that for the young generation of painters from the island, "being able to share this space with great masters of Cuban art is very rewarding and inspiring, and above all, it gives you the strength that we sometimes need."

One of the most significant moments of the opening gala was the awarding of the Distinction for National Culture, which is conferred by the Cuban Ministry of Culture, to Italian curator Eriberto Bettini.

Indira Fajardo, president of the Cuban Institute of Music (ICM), presented this recognition on behalf of her country's Ministry of Culture and highlighted the career of the Italian gallerist and curator, who is committed to the national art and culture of Cuba, a genuine promoter of the country's art. The ICM president told THR that for the Cubans, "it is of great significance that a person maintains this commitment to showcase, in Italy and Europe, what is being created from our small island, on the other side of the world." In his remarks at the event, Cuban ambassador to the Holy See, René Mujica, praised this extensive exhibition, held in the heart of the Italian capital and expressed gratitude for the presence of Deputy Fajardo and Cuban ambassador to Italy, Mirta Granda, as well as authorities and representatives of Vatican institutions.



Claudia Sheinbaum's First Year

By Lianet **ARIAS**

MEXICO CITY.- President Claudia Sheinbaum completed one year in office with the course set on consolidating Mexico's transformation process and an administration endorsed by more than 70 percent of the population.

The above is indicated by recent polls, which also show greater support for the country's first female president in comparison to the five previous leaders, after 12 months in office.

The polls go beyond the hard numbers: Mexicans consider she is "prepared to govern; is honest; has personality, and understands her people's concerns," according to the Banamex's economic research department, based on data from prestigious firms such as Mitofsky.

The follower of a process that began in 2018, with the arrival of Andrés Manuel López Obrador to the Presidency, and champion of the alliance between the ruling National Regeneration Movement and the Labor and Green Ecologist parties, Sheinbaum swept the elections held in June last year.

Not only did she outperform her closest opponents, whose combined votes were not even close to hers, but she also emerged as the most-voted candidate in the country's recent history, with nearly 36 million votes. Her coalition also won by a wide margin in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

During her campaign, as well as the government transition and her swearing-in ceremony – on October 1st the same year – the current president shed light on the direction of her administration, which would embark on the Second Stage of the Fourth Transformation of Mexico's public life, as she called it.



Claudia Sheinbaum changed Mexico development model.

PHOTO: Internet.

The first stage had been built by López Obrador under principles such as democracy, the defense of sovereignty, republican austerity, shared prosperity, separation of political and economic power, and the fight against corruption, a deeply-rooted evil for decades.

"She changed the country's development model from the failed neoliberal and the regime of corruption and privileges to one that emerged from Mexico's fruitful history, from love for the people and honesty. We call it Mexican Humanism," the President summarized a year ago. The new vision, with fundamental premises such as "For the good of all, the poor first," bore fruit: between 2018 and 2024, during López Obrador's six-year term, 13.4 million people emerged from that condition, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography.

In addition to emerging from the lowest level in this area for at least 40 years, another indicator had a marked decline: the Gini coefficient fell from 0.426 to 0.391, turning Mexico into the country with the second-lowest inequality rate in the Americas, only surpassed by Canada.

Sheinbaum decided to follow the same path as her predecessor, with increases in the minimum wage and the maintenance of a series of social programs. She also added three new programs: bimonthly support for women aged 60 to 64; scholarships for public school students; and home medical care for the elderly and people with disabilities.



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A Hug from Mexico

By Liana **SANJOSÉ**

MEXICO CITY.- More than 500 activists from Latin America, Spain, Lebanon, Canada and the United States raised their voices in Mexico to support Cuba against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by Washington.

The participants in the 9th Continental Meeting of Solidarity with the Caribbean island, gathered for four days in this capital, agreed to continue condemning the siege in place for more than six decades, now reinforced since 2019 with additional stifling measures.

"With its criminal measures, the United States has not achieved nor will ever achieve its main objective of overthrowing the Cuban Revolution, but has succeeded in placing our population under unprecedented hardships and our economy in a vulnerable situation," said a Cuban official.

When giving an update on the effects of the aggressive U.S. policy, Deputy General Director for U.S. Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Johana Tablada, mentioned its consequences in all areas, among them: transportation, salaries and the healthcare system.

Faced with such an adverse scenario, Brazilian theologian Frei Betto, who gave

a lecture at the regional meeting, called for increasing the denunciation of the blockade, especially on digital networks, and for carrying out campaigns to send medicines, in particular, to the largest of the Antilles.

It is not surprising that the action plan endorsed by those attending the meeting includes boosting fundraising and donations; promoting tourism; facilitating the purchase of Cuban products and supporting the initiative of Cubans living in Mexico to send a ship with oil to the island.

The continental meeting was also a favorable opportunity to demand Cuba's removal from Washington's unilateral list of nations allegedly sponsoring terrorism, and the return of the illegally occupied territory of the Guantánamo naval base.

In addition, there was opposition to "the media persecution and lynching" of the Cuban medical brigades, urging the United States to stop pressuring other governments to end these programs, which benefit the most vulnerable populations. The delegates also agreed to promote the World Marathon of Love for Cuba, dedicated to the centenary of the birth of historic leader of the Revolution, Fidel Castro, and

to carry out planned work within solidarity structures to recruit young people.

They also rejected the United States' imposition on the Dominican Republic of excluding Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua from the 10th Summit of the Americas, and stated their support of other causes, such as that of the Palestinian people.

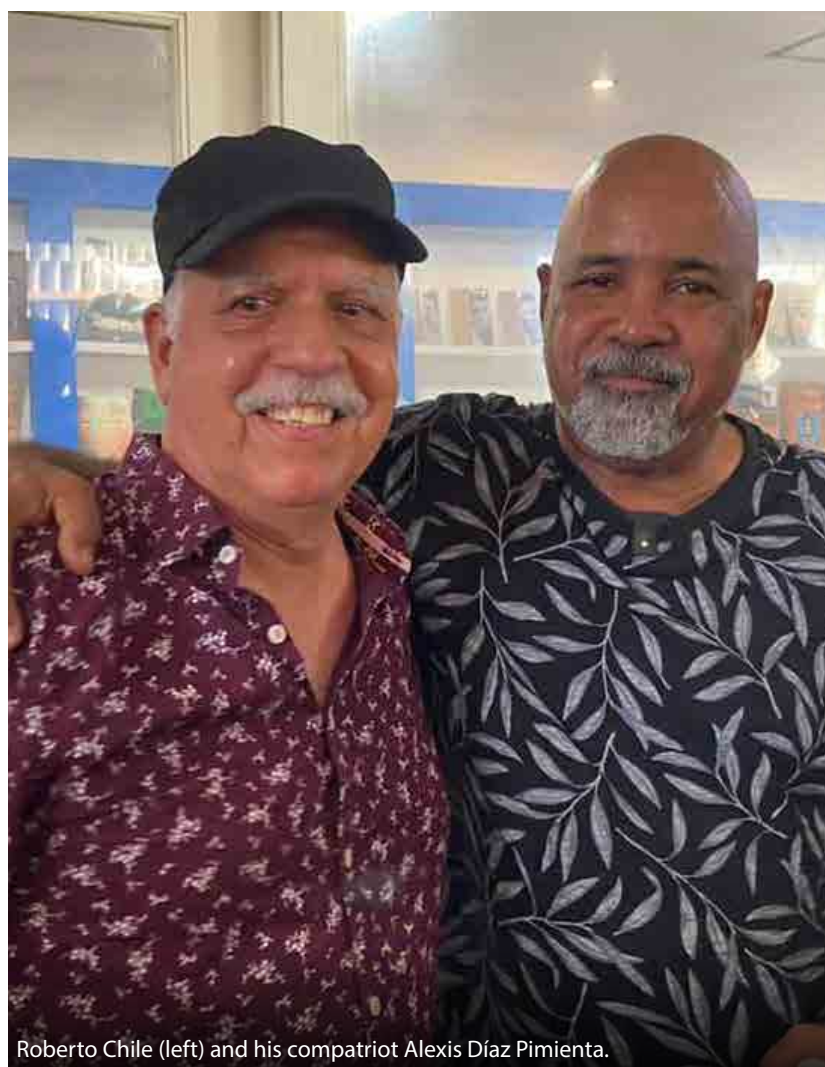
The participants expressed their disagreement with Washington's threat "to invade Venezuela" and condemned the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to María Corina Machado calling it a recognition of "her despicable role in promoting violation of the South American nation's sovereignty."



Activists from Latin America and around the world reiterated their support for Cuba at the meeting held in Mexico. PHOTO: Internet.

Exhibition conVergences: between tenths, lights, and shadows

Text and photo Adis **MORERA**



Roberto Chile (left) and his compatriot Alexis Díaz Pimienta.

HAVANA.-Cuban lens artist Roberto Chile and his compatriot Alexis Díaz Pimienta, a master of improvisation, presented the exhibition conVergences in this capital, a two-handed talent that these creators give away to their homeland. The Pabellón Cuba's exhibition hall was the chosen setting for this artistic dialogue, which, between lights and shadows, portrays a real Cuba, with its fractures but also with its beauties. In exclusive statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Chile expressed that the exhibition is complemented by the launch of the homonymous digital book, from RUTH Casa editorial, and with a prologue by Rafael Acosta.

"They are photographs of my authorship and tenths by Alexis Díaz Pimienta inspired by each photo," he said. "As he says, the tenths are photos of the photos."

"He does not describe the photograph; he enters a new field and grants a third dimension to the photo. With his imagination, he invents, and we both converge in the meaning and the idea of the photo and the Tenth," he explained.

He also added that the project portrays a bit of today's Cuba, "without falling into the traditionalist

or daily photography that we all do and that I worship. "There are portraits, conceptual and documentary photographs, sets of four photographs dealing with the same theme,

photographs that speak for themselves, and diptychs.

"We want to convey a message of alertness and observation with eagle eyes, in this case."

"Diverse images that give an idea of what is happening today spiritually, more than in Cuba, in our city," he pointed out.

The expo was first displayed at the José Martí National Library last year, although Pimienta could not be there as he was in Spain.

"Now we are both in charge of this presentation, very motivated and happy because we have seen a lot of enthusiasm from the public." The event concluded with a concert by Buena Fe and Alexis Díaz-Pimienta.

What distinguishes this sample from the previous ones?

"Here, there are photographs from different years, some had been seen before and others not. Photographs taken just days before presenting the exhibition for the first time."

"You look at the display and it might seem to you that there is more than one photographer," added the artist, who describes himself as a lens artist in constant search.

The prominent photographer stated that he likes conVergencias, "because there is a lot of Roberto Chile in these photographs, and fortunately, I have an Alexis Díaz-Pimienta who gives a much greater color and dimension to each image."

Party of the Cuban Identity: History and Tradition



A ride in Bayamo honored the mambises (war of independence soldiers) and their entry into the old town. PHOTO: Internet.

By Adriana**ARAÚJO**

HAVANA.- Under the motto “Homeland in my voice,” the eastern Cuban city of Bayamo hosted the 31st edition of the Fiesta de la Cubanía (Cuban Identity Party), the symbol of a nation that did a ride in honor of the mambises (war of independence soldiers) and their entry into the old town. From October 17th to 20th, various activities took place, beginning with a tour at a local Pre-University Institute. The tour showcased an object of patrimonial value used by the Revolution’s leader, Fidel Castro: his historic cap, a witness to battles and narrow guerrilla paths. The event, which rendered tribute to the Commander-in-Chief and other Cuban figures, included the participation of more than 30 academics, sociologists, anthropologists, philologists and historians, mainly from the Universidad Autónoma de México and Universidad Intercultural de las Artes, from Chiapas. Their presence enhanced the scientific level of the forum, as well as the varied program of artistic and cultural activities. Book sales and presentations, virtual and live exhibitions, children’s projects, film screenings, as well as literary contests, theoretical sessions, conferences, and panels were all part of the program for the 2025 edition of the “Fiesta de la Cubanía” (Cuban Culture Festival). Given the importance of music and poetic improvisation (“repentismo”) for this nation’s

identity, the celebration featured a danzón festival, choir concerts, a battle of improvisers, as well as a tribute to Sindo Garay, a representative of the Cuban Traditional Trova. The celebration also included the holding of the 3rd Colloquium on Latin American Decolonizing Cultural Thought, in the framework of the 33rd edition of the theoretical event Crisol de la nacionalidad cubana (Melting pot of the Cuban nationality). October 20 is considered the Day of the Cuban Culture because on that date, the people of Bayamo sang La Bayamesa, a battle song that later became the National Anthem, whose melody and lyrics were composed by Pedro (Perucho) Figueredo. On that day, the first performance of our national anthem was commemorated, and a lecture entitled “Fidel: Thought and Action” was given, two actions that most directly reflect the idiosyncrasies of the Cuban people. .More than a celebration, the Fiesta de la Cubanía is about making a commitment from each of our spaces and institutions, turning them into a trench for the defense of identity, said Lourdes Ferrera, director of programming at the Cuban Ministry of Culture. A group of activities filled the streets and parks of Bayamo’s city to celebrate the nation, its traditions and identity.

Spain and Cuba United by a Rich Cultural Heritage

By Marlén**RUIZ**

HAVANA.- Music, cinema, literature, flamenco performances and visual and performing arts were staged in several venues across the Cuban capital in October, during the Spanish Cultural Days in Cuba. Lovers of these wonderful artistic expressions enjoyed the rich culture that distinguishes the Iberian nation in the context of October 12, Spain’s National Day. According to the organizers, one of the event’s purposes was to help Spanish artists

showcase their work and foster exchange and collaboration between creators, academics, and institutions from both countries. The program included the screening of the film Tasio, by Spanish director Montxo Armendáriz; during the Spanish Film Week, on the Cuban television, channel Multivision and the exhibition Los rostros de Atabey (Atabey’s Faces). Regarding visual arts, the watercolor exhibition La huella de España en La Habana (Spain’s imprint in Havana), by Spanish artist Jaume Marzal, portrayed majestic buildings such as the Castillo de la Real Fuerza, Palacio

de Aldama, Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro and Centro Asturiano, among others. National and foreign musical performances highlighted these Cultural Days, including the concert París al piano, by Spanish singer and songwriter Carmen París; and Bingo, Cuban musician Alain Pérez’s most recent album. Flamenco was present through the A Compás Flamenco company, while the performing arts included the work in progress of the play Miguel Will. El encuentro espiritual de dos genios: Miguel de Cervantes y William Shakespeare (Miguel Will. The spiritual meeting of two geniuses: Miguel

de Cervantes and William Shakespeare), by Spanish playwright José Carlos Somoza. Other initiatives conducted during the festival included the talk Viajes y viajeros en lengua catalana: Historias contadas, historias dibujadas, with Iberian writer Rosa Cuadrado, and the presentation of the comic Tirant lo Blanc, by her fellow countryman Jaume Marzal. The staged reading of Don Juan Tenorio, by José Zorrilla, performed by Teatro El Público, put an end to the festival, a celebration that not only promotes artistic exchanges but also brotherhood between two nations united by a rich cultural heritage.



The purpose of these days was to help Spanish artists showcase their work and foster exchange and collaboration between creators, academics, and institutions from both countries. PHOTO: Abel Rojas.

Solidarity Campaign Finishes in Vietnam

By MoisésPÉREZ

HANOI.- The campaign to support Cuba, launched by the Vietnamese Red Cross, successfully ended raising more than 21 million dollars, according to preliminary figures reported in this capital. Launched on August 13, on the occasion of the 99th birthday of Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro and in the context of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Year and the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the initiative officially concluded on October 16. According to the latest report from the Vietnamese Red Cross, by 20:00 hours (local time) that day, more than 2,090,000 individual and collective contributions had been received, totaling approximately 555.800 million dong (over 21,1 million dollars). In a post on its Facebook page, the humanitarian social organization recalled the beginning, over two months ago, of what they described as a special journey of compassion, gratitude and strong mutual understanding between the two nations.

When referring to the closing of the campaign, the entity added that “the good emotions left behind will surely resonate for a long time in the hearts of all Vietnamese.” On the same social network, user Pham Tran Hoa described “the affection of the Vietnamese towards the Cuban people as incredible and impressive,” while Dinh Lan stated that “if it weren’t for the last two historic floods (that affected Vietnam), the amount would have exceeded 650,000 million” VND.

On October 18, the official closing ceremony for the campaign celebrated a stunning success: 65 billion VND (around \$2.4 million) raised in only 30 hours.

As part of the festivities, winners of the “Vietnam-Cuba: Song of Friendship That Echoes Forever” songwriting contest were awarded their prizes.

The call was opened last August 22 at the Vietnamese Union of Literature and Arts Associations. On that day,

president of that institution, Do Hong Quan, said that this was not only an artistic activity but also a demonstration of the spirit of international solidarity, especially with the brotherly Cuban people.

In addition to material support, we have an invaluable treasure: the talent, the artistic creativity, and the heart and emotion of the artist. With that treasure, we can create songs that will last forever, becoming a bridge that

connects friendship between Vietnam and Cuba, Hong Quan stated.

Cuban ambassador to Vietnam, Rogelio Polanco, emphasized that “music knows no borders, and the initiative to organize this composition campaign is something we truly appreciate and celebrate, because through melody and lyrics, the friendship between the people of Vietnam and Cuba is expressed vividly and emotionally.”



The outcome of the Vietnamese Red Cross campaign confirmed the deep ties of friendship with Cuba. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Global South suffers most from world instability

By LiviaRODRÍGUEZ

NEW DELHI.- India affirmed that the Global South suffers, more than developed countries do, a greater impact from the consequences of global instability, with multiple conflicts taking a heavy toll on human lives.

Speaking at the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, the Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, reiterated India's commitment to the ideals of peace, security, development and progress. “India has always been and will continue to be a firm defender of the United Nations and, indeed, of multilateralism,” he reassured.

The Chancellor highlighted that the Asian nation's attachment to world security is particularly seen in its firm support to peace, which is a fundamental obligation and to which India has devoted energies and resources, he said.

However, he considered that the United Nations' decision-making does not reflect its members nor does it address global priorities, while its debates have become increasingly polarized, and its work is visibly stalled.

Any significant change faces obstruction because of the very process of reform and financial constraints have become an additional concern, he added.

Therefore, Jaishankar pointed out that it is a great challenge for everyone to support the UN, even while seeking its reinvention. The head of the Indian diplomacy considered the international organization's response to terrorism and the slowdown of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals to be current challenges, with the latter indicator being significant in measuring the distress of the Global South, he said.

“There are much more, whether they are trade measures, supply chain dependencies, or political domination,” he noted.

However, Jaishankar advocated for not losing hope, notwithstanding how difficult it may seem, and stated that the commitment to multilateralism must remain firm.

He urged continued support for the United Nations in these times of crisis, and to reiterate and renew faith in international cooperation to build a better world.



Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. PHOTO: Internet.

Las Terrazas: Cuba's Most Attractive Ecotourism Destinations

Text and Photos Roberto F. CAMPOS

HAVANA.- Las Terrazas, a community in western Cuba, is renowned for its successful tourism initiatives and truly desirable environment.

This site, frequented by both Cubans and foreigners, captivates visitors with its many charms, green areas, and surrounding virgin nature.

Cuba, and its western region in particular, hosted the 10th Ibero-American Rural Tourism Meeting, which concluded on October 5 in this rural tourism village, which supports sustainable development, and played a significant role.

Las Terrazas, located on the banks of the San Juan River, within the Sierra del Rosario mountain range in the province of Artemisa, covers an area of 5,000 hectares, and nearly one thousand inhabitants.

The community emerged from a 1971 project by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) dedicated to biosphere reserves.

Its objective was to connect rural communities with their surroundings and halt the significant deforestation that had occurred since the colonial period, caused by nearby copper mines, indiscriminate forestry, and coffee plantations.

"In 1994, the Las Terrazas Tourist Complex was officially established, launching the construction of modern amenities and a transformation of the economic base towards the service sector, with a particular focus on sustainable ecotourism.

As a result of those changes, the Moka Hotel, restaurants, cafes, rehabilitation centers, and other facilities were built, and maintained today by its residents with a high level of service and nature protection.

It is also worthwhile mentioning that this community was the home of the famous rural singer Polo Montañez (1955-2002), another attraction for many visitors.



Peru: The Curtains Have Fallen!

By Gustavo **ESPINOZA**

LIMA.- Shortly before the start of October 10th, Dina Boluarte finally fell in the same chamber that had endorsed her seizure of power on December 7, 2022, following the coup d'état that brought down the Constitutional Government of Pedro Castillo, democratically elected in June 2021.

The parliamentary decision was adopted by unanimous vote: 123 congresspersons supported it and not a single one voted against it or abstained. This unusual phenomenon only highlighted what had always been said: absolutely nobody in their sound mind supports this "leader," who had 98.1 percent disapproval rate among citizens in the latest polls.

There were several reasons behind the impeachment, but two factors certainly had a decisive impact: the absolutely widespread atmosphere of citizens' insecurity and the constant mistakes of the precarious Palace occupant, who unleashed Peruvians' intense anger with her politically illiterate advice.

The triggering events undoubtedly included the massive and fierce protests by

transport workers, who rose up to defend their own lives and public safety. These were complimented by widespread youth demonstrations and the bizarre attack on the musical band "Agua Marina" on October 8th..

The transport workers' struggle was marred by the brutality of police repression and the government's actions to break the protests of a sector cruelly punished by delinquency and crime.

The attack on the musical band, however, seemed bizarre: it was carried out in a virtually closed military setting, which

suffered the effects of firearms shots – 27 machine gun shells – executed with high precision by an unidentified commando.

But this was the last straw, the final event that overflowed the cup, compelling the political blocs shielding Dina to execute an abrupt turnaround.

In the early hours of October 9, the Fuerza Popular movement declared that it "would not support" the opposition's request for impeachment, but by midday, it changed its stance.

Clearly, common sense prevailed: for reasons of strict political and electoral

convenience, they needed to "distance themselves" from the person who embodied crime, misrule, and defeat. To continue tolerating her in power would cause them fatal consequences in 2026 perspective. In this context, "stepping back" was the least they could do to "wash their hands."

The result, though, was predictable: the Congress would not approve Dina's dismissal while she had the possibility of dissolving the Chamber. Since this possibility expired at the beginning of the last legislative year, she could be removed without reservations as of July 28, 2025.

However, one objective fact must be noted: in this case, the established constitutional procedure was followed to the letter. Was any of this considered in the Castillo case? Certainly not. The constitutional president was not heard, nor was he given the right to a defense, and he was removed with fewer votes than those required.

He was first imprisoned and then, deprived of his position, without the minimum parliamentary requirements. It was all illegal. This was always pointed out by the people, but the "parliamentary majority" turned a deaf ear.



After usurping power in 2022, Boluarte was expelled by a unanimous decision of Parliament. PHOTO: Internet.

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Rice Production Plans for 2026

By **The Havana Reporter** Editorial Staff

HAVANA.- The president of the Agricultural Group of the Ministry of Agriculture, Orlando Linares, announced that Cuba plans to sow 200,000 hectares of rice next year in 14 provinces, including 133 municipalities and 23,000 producers.

At a meeting with officials and producers from the Mayarí municipality, in the eastern province of Holguín, the functionary stated that major companies and specialized hubs

in the provinces of Pinar del Río, Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, Camagüey and Granma will be responsible for planting 100,000 hectares.

The plan aims to advance toward self-sufficiency in rice production, a task the country's top leadership considers essential. For this reason, starting this month, the amount of water available for these plantings will be determined.

Linares also announced that the national seed is guaranteed and that Vietnam, as part of the rice program, will provide

seeds, while the necessary fuel will reach producers through cards (70%) and foreign currencies (10%).

The chairman of the agricultural group highlighted the importance of respecting what has been established for cash payments to specialized producers to ensure deliveries and sales to the industry, as well as the settlements that farmers must make for cultivation and compensation for temporary workers.

He added that support is planned through the return of financing from foreign

currency sales to the tourist industry and other sectors, which will allow the purchase of tires, tractors, harvesters, and other necessary resources.

The recovery of warehouses for agricultural service is being promoted, as well as the use of drones, the transformation of areas to increase agricultural yields and reduce water consumption, he added.

The CEO indicated that 30,000 hectares are to be planted in the rice sowing area, both for self-consumption and to contribute to the industry.



Rice production plans are geared toward achieving self-sufficiency of this precious grain in the future. PHOTO: La Demajagua

Belarus Interested in Creating Joint Companies

By Germán **FERRÁS**

MINSK.- Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Karankevich expressed interest in creating joint ventures with Cuba during a meeting with the head of the Cuban Industries Ministry, Eloy Álvarez.

Public administration bodies and economic entities have a clear objective of continuing mutually beneficial cooperation, expanding the range of supplied products, creating joint ventures, and enhancing industrial cooperation, Karankevich affirmed.

He emphasized that Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel's official visit to Belarus, this year provided additional impetus to the development of relations between the two countries. The exchange between Karankevich and Álvarez took place in the framework of the INNOPROM Belarus International Fair, held last month.

"Since the days of the Soviet Union, Cuba has been a reliable partner and friend for us in all areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. We always

communicate very cordially, based solely on openness and complete trust," the leader stressed.

He also highlighted that the heads of state of both countries attach great importance to bilateral relations, which is why it is necessary to do "everything possible to ensure the implementation of the agreements reached by the leaders of our countries."

"We are willing to consider all issues of interest to our friendly and brother country, Cuba," the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized.

In this regard, Álvarez referred to the high level of friendly bilateral relations and the willingness to "develop and expand cooperation between our countries." He added that Belarus is a very important partner for Cuba, and praised Minsk's support in international forums and against the U.S. blockade.

The Cuban minister stated that his nation aims to increase industrial manufacturing, including food products, and specified that during his stay in Belarus, he visited companies to find potential new projects and expand trade and economic relations.



Cuba and Belarus wish to expand the range of supplied products, creating joint ventures, and enhancing industrial cooperation. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

U.S. Farmers Urge to Strengthen Cooperation

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA.- Representatives from the United States highlighted in this capital common interest in strengthening exchanges, especially in the agricultural field, at a new edition of the Cuba-United States Agricultural Conference.

According to the President of the United States Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC), Paul Johnson, bilateral cooperation has concrete potential in strategic sectors such as agriculture, scientific research and trade.

He stressed that, despite existing obstacles, imports recently increased – 17 percent compared to the previous year – and there was an expansion of products, including rice, poultry and other foods, driven by new measures adopted in the Caribbean country.

Johnson also referred to progress in academic and technical agreements, such as memorandums of understanding between universities and productive entities of both countries.

However, structural barriers still persist, including financial limitations resulting from Cuba's inclusion in U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, he acknowledged. The official also expressed his hope that technical and commercial dialogues would continue to advance for the benefit of producers and consumers in both nations.

Andrés Schade, a U.S. executive involved in bilateral cooperation, highlighted that the goal of his delegation is to continue strengthening collaboration.

He recalled that in 2024, a trilateral agreement was signed between the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture.

"The objective of our trip, thus, is to continue with this collaboration, established in last year's memorandum," he emphasized, while highlighting the importance of sharing productive experiences.

"I believe it is essential for us, and especially for our researchers, to come here to learn about production practices in place, the opportunities to improve them and the varieties developed in Cuba," he said. P.J. Haynie, a fifth-generation farmer, commented that he is excited to attend the meeting "because we want to ensure that the Cuban people have high-quality rice to consume." The CEO of Haynie Family Foods, a company dedicated to growing corn, soybeans, rice and wheat, spoke about his expectations in regards to the exchange of techniques with Cuban farmers to cultivate rice in a more sustainable way and achieve higher yields. "Agriculture feeds seven billion people daily, and that number is expected to reach nine billion by 2050," he affirmed. For that reason, Haynie emphasized that "regardless of the administration or political changes, we all have to eat and we want to make sure we consume the best quality products possible."



President of the United States Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC), Paul Johnson. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Agricultural and Livestock Company Fosters Organic Fertilizers

By Teyuné **DÍAZ**

HAVANA.- The production of organic fertilizers, substrates and worm humus in Cuba is the hallmark of the work conducted by the Bacuranao Agricultural and Livestock Company Work Staff, whose positive results are also linked to their participation in international projects.

Luis Raúl Hernández, head of the Bacuranao company, an entity attached to the Base Entrepreneurial Unit of the State Agricultural System, told **The Havana Reporter** that although production focuses on organic fertilizers, they also produce ornamental and medicinal plants for sale in the capital.

He stated that the Work Staff status allows them to have autonomy in management and decision-making, both in relation to production and the distribution of profits obtained during the production process.

This experience is a new category of the Ministry of Agriculture and is a modality that was born almost in unison with the international HAB.AMA project, in which they are involved.

HAB.AMA AND ITS RESULTS

Hernández, who is also HAB.AMA coordinator, explained that this initiative, endorsed by the Italian Agency for International Development Cooperation, supports five production lines and provides inputs and machinery to its beneficiaries, including state and individual producers, as well as credit and service cooperatives.

HAB.AMA seeks to increase local production and access to healthy and diversified food through an economically sustainable and resilient strategy in five municipalities with highest agricultural potential in Havana: Guanabacoa, La Habana del Este, Boyeros, Arroyo Naranjo and Cotorro, he added.

This initiative contributes to the strengthening of three agri-food value chains: fruit, vegetables and small livestock, particularly sheep, goats and rabbits. Hernández noted that this experience, which began in 2021 and is scheduled to close in 2025, has provided significant resources and, in his opinion, has had a positive impact on his Staff's production results, as they currently expect to close 2025 with 200 tons of worm humus.

The official added that the Staff uses raw materials from nearby livestock farms to develop their production. When cleaning these facilities, they collect cow manure and then transform it into organic matter.

The head of the Bacuranao Staff stressed the importance of the international support received in terms of equipment for collecting the aforementioned raw materials, in addition to implements for soil preparation, tractors, hand tools, among other items.

In remarks about the project, he stated that among the 15 beneficiaries in the Guanabacoa municipality, some achieved better results than others who had to contend with a rabbit epidemic. HAB.AMA recently attended the presentation of Explorar Transforma (Exploring Transforms) on the occasion of the World Food Day.



Luis Raúl Hernández leads the Bacuranao Agricultural and Livestock Company Work Staff. PHOTO: Panchito González.

World Golden Jump

By Yodeni**MASÓ**

HAVANA.- Cuban Robiel Yankiel Sol achieved another feat in New Delhi by winning the gold medal in the T46 long jump at the World Para-Athletics Championships, with a 7.57-meter jump that sealed his reign. A two-time Paralympic and world champion, Sol once again showed his supremacy by achieving the best mark of the day on his first attempt at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in the Indian capital. The silver medal went to Russian Nikita Kotukov with a jump of 7.21 meters, while the bronze was claimed by Chinese Hao Wang (7.19), in a high-level final that kept the audience in suspense. The Cuban jumper, a world record holder (7.84 meters), expressed his satisfaction with the victory, his third in this type of competitions, after those of Paris 2023 and Kobe 2024.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter** after the final, the Cuban star said: "This is already my third world title and I am only 22; but well, it wasn't with the mark I would have wanted, but the objective of winning the gold medal was achieved."

According to the athlete, after his third attempt, he felt discomfort in one of his

quadriceps. due to a slip on the board, but that didn't stop him from fighting until the end.

"With that pain, I kept going in case I was overtaken, but well, (...) the goal was achieved," emphasized the Cuban champion, who hopes to surpass the 8.00-meter mark.

Sol highlighted that his new goal after this excellent performance is to train to reach optimal shape for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

"A new Olympic cycle now begins; we have to train very hard, improve technical elements and keep moving forward to get to Los Angeles in the best shape possible," he affirmed.

He finally sent greetings to the Cuban people, especially to those who followed the competition, and assured that he will maintain his commitment to achieve good results. Cuba attended the world event with seven athletes, six of whom were finalists, headed by Robiel Yankiel Sol's gold (T46), Ulicer Aguilera's silver in javelin (F13) and Guillermo Varona's bronze (F46). Those who did not reach the podium include Ever René Castro, champion of the Santiago 2023 Parapan-American Games

who achieved his best javelin throw on Indian soil in the F41 category with 39.65 meters, finishing fourth and setting a continental record.

With these three awards, Cuba concluded the world competition in the 35th place on the overall medal table and seventh

among the top countries in the Americas, only surpassed by Brazil (the event leader with 15 golds, 20 silvers and nine bronzes), Colombia (sixth, 7-10-4), the United States (ninth, 6-9-12), Mexico (22nd, 3-1-6), Ecuador (24th, 3-1-1) and Argentina (29th, 2-1-0).



Robiel Yankiel Sol won the gold medal in the T46 long jump with 7.57-meters. PHOTO: Internet.

Marifélix's Redemption

By Boris Luis**CABRERA**

HAVANA.- During the final day of the World Weightlifting Championship in Førde—a Norwegian town cradled by mountains and silence—a young Cuban woman named Marifélix Sarria boosted up her name, her dignity, and the dream of an entire island.

On the platform, the Cuban girl tightened her wristbands, took a deep breath and looked at the weight that separated her from history. Neither the cold, nor the fatigue, nor the ghosts stopped her, until she hung a trio of silver medals on her chest, shaking the country. That morning, light filtered through the pavilion's large windows like a chilly blessing. The audience waited, unaware that they were about to witness more than a tournament: a redemption. On her first attempt, the Cuban lifted 113 kilos as if tearing a page from destiny. Then, on the third attempt, with a scream that shattered the air, she lifted 118 kilos. The first silver, the first smile, but also the first sign that her story would not be that of just another athlete.

Because there was a scar behind that smile. A year earlier, Marifélix had been removed from the platforms due to an unfair sanction, victim of contaminated meat. She spent almost twelve months training in silence, defending her innocence, holding onto her faith with determination. From that test, she emerged stronger. When it was her turn for the jerk, she failed the first attempt. She closed her eyes and thought of Cuba, of the tough training sessions, of the early mornings filled with sweat and tears.

She returned to the platform and lifted 157 kilos, as if every gram represented a challenge overcome. Second

silver. No one doubted anymore what her place would be in the world scenario.

In total, 275 kilos. Third silver. Three times she got on the podium, three times she surpassed herself. Only South Korean Park Hyeyong, Olympic runner-up, surpassed her. But what Marifélix achieved could not be measured on the results table: she had reclaimed her history.

That night, in the solitude of the locker room, the tears were not from exhaustion, but from relief. "It was worth it," she whispered, looking at the medals that gleamed on the towel like mirrors of the soul. Outside, there was a battering cold, but the fire of a tropical country burned inside her.

Heroism does not always come from victory; sometimes it springs from pain. From a body that refuses to give

up, from a 21-year-old girl who, having started in water polo, found in steel her purest language.

Marifélix learned to turn a fall into momentum, doubt into energy, error into beauty. Each of her lifts was a statement: I am still here.

There were no speeches or boasts, only the certainty that true champions are those who carry their history on their shoulders without falling apart. The weightlifter, once unfairly sidelined, returned to lift the hopes of a nation on her shoulders. And with every centimeter the bar rose, so too did the spirit of a country intimately familiar with struggle, defeat, and resurrection.

Today, as the echo of Forde fades, the image of Marifélix Sarria remains alive: her gaze fixed, her body tense, the bar vibrating in the air like a sustained note of pride. There is no applause that completely fades when what is being celebrated is the soul.



Marifélix Sarria surpassed herself three times and obtained three silver medals. PHOTO: Internet.

Charming Opera: Peñíscola, Spain

Text and photo Fausto**TRIANA**

PEÑÍSCOLA, SPAIN.- The views are extraordinary from a rock in the Mediterranean, right on the sea's imaginary summit, like a sweeping embrace of nature, history, and tradition: Peñíscola, in Spain.

Located in the Bajo Maestrazgo region, on the northern coast of the province of Castellón, in the Valencian Community, it offers a spectacular sight of the beach, the walled city and the Sierra de Irta Natural Park, which confirm its outstanding beauty. A jewel of the Mediterranean, a rather overused but accurate phrase to describe the urban center of about eight thousand inhabitants, and also known as Peñíscola in Valencian, it was populated by Iberians, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines and Arabs in the 7th and 6th centuries BC.

Colonized by the Greeks and Romans, although the latter were the ones who, when translating the city's Greek name into Latin in the vulgar form paene + insula (almost + island), sealed its origin to the current toponym of Peñíscola or Peñíscola. The historical passages bring together surprising elements for a place that, in



Peñíscola is important and unique because it is a city nestled in the sea, of medieval origin, located on a tombolo. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

reality, is small and far from the region's easiest communication channels. However, it knew quite a bit about pirates, Knights Templars and the existence of the third Holy See in the world.

OPERA IN E FLAT

Musicologists say that E flat in the octave 8 is the highest note. A rather far-fetched comment, to give Peñíscola a privileged place.

In the end, like opera, which is the synthesis of singing, instrumental music, acting, costumes and scenery, a city hotel offers in its upper rooms a pair of binoculars that invite to a sort of opera box.

The truth is that the binoculars are quite suggestive, but it is better to attend the festivities in honor of the Virgin of the Hermitage, a tradition that dates back to

over four centuries ago. And alternate with the beach.

The Papa Luna Castle, the spa and the fireworks display are gifts that attract more than 200,000 tourists each September, out of the two million the city welcomes annually.

Some of these premises will be explored in depth with Chema Rabasa, Peñíscola's Heritage guide-interpreter.

"From several points of view, it is important and unique. Primarily, because it is a city nestled in the sea, of medieval origin, located on a tombolo, a limestone peninsula which makes it, from a landscape perspective, very original," he told **The Havana Reporter**.

Rabasa emphasized that Peñíscola can be seen from the south, the north, and always facing the Mediterranean, with the Papa Luna Castle as point of reference. "That's why people call it the city in the sea, inhabited in ancient times before the Roman period, and also by Muslims."

It stands out for having been a Holy See, one of the three in human history (along with Avignon, France and Rome, Italy), and the seat of the Knights Templars, in addition to the presence of Pedro Martínez de Luna, who became Benedict XIII, Supreme Pontiff and protagonist of the Western Schism, Rabasa explained.



FOREIGN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CUBAN HEALTH SECTOR

