**LATIN AMERICA 2025, 8 February, Hamilton House, London
Speech by Pablo Arturo Ginarte Sampedro, Cuban embassy First Secretary in the seminar:
ALBA (The Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas) – regional integration for people, planet and peace, not profit & empire**

Compañeras y compañeros, esteemed colleagues, friends of Latin America and the Caribbean, good afternoon. My name is Pablo Ginarte and I am honored to serve as First Secretary for Political Affairs at the Cuban Embassy in London. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who stand united in the struggle for justice and progress.

Born out of the visionary leadership of Fidel Castro and Hugo Chávez, ALBA represents a radical reimagining of regional integration, one that stands in defiance of neoliberal models that prioritize profit over people. ALBA is built on the pillars of solidarity, cooperation, and the principle of complementarity, whereby nations share their strengths to build each other up. At its core, ALBA is not just an alliance, but a family united by the belief that another world is possible - a world where health care, education, and dignity are inherent human rights, not commodities for sale.

For nearly two decades, ALBA has translated this revolutionary vision into tangible change. Consider Cuba's Mission Miracle, which has restored sight to more than 6 million people across Latin America and the Caribbean-a powerful act of revolutionary love that reaffirms our commitment to human dignity. Venezuela's Petrocaribe has secured energy for nations battered by volatile markets, while ALBA-funded literacy programs such as the Yes I Can teaching method, sustainable agriculture initiatives, and disaster relief efforts in Bolivia, Nicaragua, and beyond have transformed countless lives. These accomplishments are not just achievements; they are living proof of our collective determination to build societies that put people at the center of development.

Our solidarity transcends borders and we remain steadfast in our support for oppressed peoples around the world. ALBA stands firmly with the people of Palestine, providing concrete humanitarian assistance and unwavering political support to affirm their inalienable right to live in dignity and freedom. In the face of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, where innocent lives are being systematically extinguished and communities decimated, we echo the cries of the oppressed and demand accountability from those who perpetrate these atrocities. As José Martí declared, "Home is humanity," and it is our duty to confront injustice wherever it occurs.

But even as we expand our solidarity globally, we must also expose the egregious policies of those who seek to maintain imperial domination. The United States, under President Trump in his second term, has brazenly resurrected the Monroe Doctrine as a tool for imperial intervention-a doctrine repurposed to justify aggression and control in our hemisphere. With figures like Secretary of State Marco Rubio-a longtime virulent anti-Cuban senator now in the cabinet of what many consider the most powerful and dangerous country in the world-the United States continues to impose blockades, sanctions, and now tariffs that stifle the aspirations of sovereign peoples and undermine the cause of global justice.

At a time of climate crisis and deepening inequality, ALBA offers a transformative way forward. Our economic zone of shared development champions sustainability over exploitation, community well-being over corporate greed, and innovative, socially responsible policies over destructive extraction. ALBA nations are pioneers in renewable energy, agroecology, and disaster resilience, proving that buen vivir -living well in harmony with the earth- is not a distant dream, but a practice we can build every day.

Our journey has not been without formidable challenges. Unilateral coercive measures against Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, relentless media distortions and systematic destabilization campaigns are constant reminders of the forces arrayed against progressive nations. But like a palm tree standing firm in the midst of stormy winds, ALBA endures, fortified by our unity and unwavering revolutionary spirit. As Simón Bolívar once proclaimed, "Unity, unity, unity, must be our motto”. It is this unity that fuels our resilience and strengthens our commitment to securing justice, dignity and freedom for all peoples.

To our friends in the United Kingdom and supporters of progressive causes around the world, your solidarity is our greatest weapon. I urge you to challenge the narratives that demonize revolutionary movements and expose the hypocrisy of those who condemn others as state sponsors of terrorism while continuing to impose blockades and sanctions that stifle the voices of the oppressed. Join initiatives like the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, the Nicaragua Solidarity Network, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, and many others that help amplify the message of ALBA - a message that stands for peace, justice, and the right of every people to self-determination.

Compañeros, let us remember that ALBA is more than an acronym -it is the real dawn of a new era, a symbol of hope and renewal where nations walk hand in hand and where peoples and the planet come first. In the words of Salvador Allende, "To be young and not a revolutionary is a biological contradiction". Today I call on each of you to embrace your inner revolutionary - a revolutionary of hope, unity and justice. Thank you, and ¡Hasta la victoria siempre! Venceremos.