



**DECLARATION ADOPTED AT THE I MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES
(CELAC) ON THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE
PROCESS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND THE FARC**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC congratulate the Government of Colombia and the FARC for having reached a framework agreement to initiate a dialogue process intended to terminate an internal conflict that for more than 50 years has hindered internal peace and affected the political, social and economic development of this sister nation.

In this regard, the member States of CELAC express their unrestricted support to President Juan Manuel Santos for this transcendental initiative and urge the Government of Colombia and the FARC to carry it through in a framework of understanding, generosity and respect for the Rule of Law that permits all Colombians to develop in a climate of peace, security, democracy and prosperity, as deserved by the brotherly Colombian people.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC, while wishing a successful ending of these negotiations, commend and highlight the important role to be played by Norway and Cuba as guarantors of this process, as well as the disposition of Chile and Venezuela, as countries accompanying this process.

New York, 27 September 2012