REMARKS ON H.E PROFESSOR JHONY BALZA ARISMENDI, AMBASSADOR OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AND H.E. RAÚL RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014
• H.E Professor Jhony Balza Arismendi, Ambassador of The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
• H.E. Raúl Rodríguez Ramos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
• H.E. Bah el Mad Abdellah, Ambassador of the Republic of Western Sahara
• Members of Staff
• Students
• Ladies and Gentlemen
Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce our first speaker, H.E Professor Jhony Balza Arismendi. Arismendi is the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. He is accredited to the Republic of Kenya and is also attending to the Republics of Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Somalia. Born in Trujillo State, Venezuela in 1951, he received his education from the University of Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela with a degree in history and geography.

He holds a Masters of Art in contemporary history and international relations from the faculty of history and philosophy from the University of Havana in Cuba.
Arismendi previously served as a Professor in the School of International Studies, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Central University of Venezuela from 1998 to 2008 and Ambassador to the Republic of Burkina Faso concurring in 2010 to 2012.

His co-speaker, H.E. Raúl Rodríguez Ramos is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba. Ramos was born in Havana, Cuba and received his education in political sciences at the Havana University.

Ramos, a career diplomat joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976. From 1979 to 1991, he served in the
following countries: Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Seychelles and Liberia. In 1992, he was named Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and was designated to the following countries: Libya (1992-96), Cape Verde (2001-05), Kiribati (2008-11), Kenya (2012 - present).

It is these responsibilities and practice that make these Ambassadors, the perfect speakers to share the progress, accomplishments, challenges and prospects of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples’ Trade Agreement (ALBA-PTA) that has happened in the last ten (10) years.
Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that we can learn some lessons on world trade from ALBA-PTA, an organization that currently brings together nine States from Latin America and the Caribbean’s to form a common trading bloc.

ALBA was born on December 14, 2004, in Havana, Cuba, upon the signing of a joint Agreement between the late Commander, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Hugo Chávez Frías and Commander Fidel Castro Ruz, President of State Council of the Republic of Cuba.

Membership of Bolivia, in April 2006, redefined the principles of the Alliance by proposing the inclusion of the Peoples’ Trade Agreement (PTA), to become ALBA-PTA. This
change accommodated trade based principles on complementary cooperation and solidarity.

Today, the University of Nairobi is privileged to welcome the Embassies of the Republic of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to share knowledge and experience on ‘10 years of consolidating solidarity and integration among the people of America.’

We welcome the participation of all including in engaging the speakers in the question and answer session.
May I now take this opportunity to welcome H.E Professor Jhony Balza Arismendi, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.